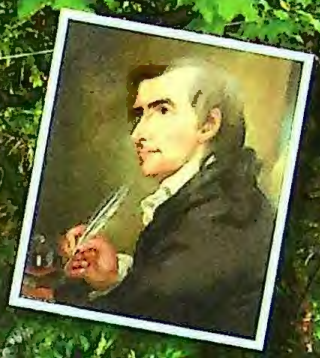
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American Spirit
JULY | AUGUST 2022 VOLUME 156, NO. 4

/ *Table of Contents* /

features



26

Visions of America:
Saddle Up to Explore National Parks
Horseback exploration can enhance your experience of these six unique national parks.
By Jeff Walter



30

Groundbreaking Ingenuity
Ames Tools traces its history to 1774—and its shovels helped build America.
By Emily McMackin Dye



34

America's First Prisoners of War
From 1776–1783, New York City served as the headquarters of British operations—and a detention center for captured American insurgents.
By Kimberly Howard-Thomassen, Alyssa Loorya and Michelle Haska



38

Evolving to Stay Relevant
Historic house museums across the country have identified ways to not only survive but also thrive.
By Courtney Peter

42

The Bare Necessities
Life for our Colonial ancestors was far different from the lives we lead today—but their routines were not exactly simpler.
By Bill Hudgins



departments

18

Spirited Adventures:
Soak Up El Paso, Texas
Known as "Sun City," the westernmost city of Texas celebrates its border-town heritage and rich history.
By Kim Hill

22

Historic Homes:
Tennessee Landmark
Blount Mansion in Knoxville, Tenn., stands as the city's oldest operating museum and only National Historic Landmark.
By Elizabeth Mariano Mubarek

46



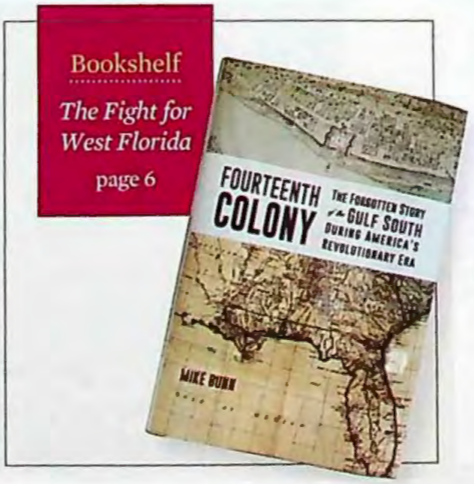
Our Patriots:
Stars, Stripes, a Seal, a Song
Though his legacy is often forgotten or overlooked, Francis Hopkinson played significant roles in designing both the American Flag and the Great Seal of the United States.
By Sarah Jenkins Smith



in every issue

3 President General's Message
4 Today's Daughters
6 Bookshelf
7 National Treasures
8 Service to America
9 DAR Historic Preservation Grants
10 Whatnot







About the cover:
An American Flag hangs from trees in Searsburg, Vt.
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From the President General

What an incredible honor and privilege it is to have been elected the 46th President General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution at our annual Continental Congress in July. I am thrilled to step into this role, especially at a time when we are preparing for our nation's 250th Anniversary. Your Executive Committee is dedicated to using our term to celebrate our nation's rich history and diversity of experience and expand our membership by welcoming all descendants of American Revolutionary Patriots while also retaining our treasured Daughters.



Whether you are a brand-new subscriber or longtime reader, we hope you will be pleased with the variety of articles in this issue of our award-winning *American Spirit*. In this issue, Francis Hopkinson, the designer of the Stars and Stripes, is profiled. We also explore the history of Ames Tools, which was founded in 1774 and is still in operation today. In Spirited Adventures, I invite you to travel to my home state of Texas to see what the city of El Paso has to offer. I hope you enjoy the stories within these pages as much as our team enjoys creating them for you.

I also hope you gain a better understanding of and appreciation for our Society in these pages. Since our founding in 1890, members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution have dedicated themselves to historic preservation, education and encouragement of patriotic endeavors. The articles in this issue of *American Spirit* reflect that mission.

In Service to America, you'll read about members from Florida and Alabama who participate in naturalization ceremonies to celebrate new citizens. In "The Legacy of America's First Prisoners of War," you'll learn about the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Brooklyn, N.Y., which was erected in 1908 thanks in part to members of Brooklyn's Fort Greene DAR Chapter. And, in Historic Homes, you will discover how the Bonny Kate DAR Chapter in Knoxville, Tenn., helps support Blount Mansion both financially and through volunteer service.

Reading these stories confirms that DAR is so much more than a lineage society—we are a vibrant, active service organization that remains as relevant to society today as it was when it was founded. As we approach our nation's 250th Anniversary, now is the time to become involved in our Society's important mission. With more than 47 committees and many opportunities to serve, there is something for everyone.

Join us as we Celebrate Stars and Stripes Forever!

Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright

Pamela Edwards Rouse Wright

By Lena Anthony

Give It Arrest

Colorado Daughter and longtime sheriff's deputy to retire her badge after 30 years



When **Jana Cates** took a civilian job with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, which covers more than 800 square miles south and east of Denver, Colo., it didn't take her long to realize that the sheriff's deputies were doing much of the same work for a lot more money. She never saw herself in a law enforcement role, but adding some risk for more earning potential was a calculation she was willing to make.

"I figured the worst they could do was tell me thanks but no thanks," she said.

They did not, and 18 months later, after taking written tests, personality tests, and physical and mental fitness tests, and graduating from the training academy, she was officially commissioned as a sheriff's deputy.

Mrs. Cates is set to retire this year after 30 years on the job. In some ways, her job has changed very little over these past three decades. She has been with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department in the Detention Services Bureau since the beginning. The roles that she has had in this single job have varied widely, from booking inmates to patrolling cell blocks to transporting prisoners to making sure offenders in alternative sentencing programs meet their requirements.

"Detention is sort of the scullery maid of law enforcement," she said. "We're necessary, obviously, but it's not nearly as glamorous as it's made out to be. Honestly, it's a lot like glorified babysitting. We're making sure they're safe and making sure we're safe. We're talking to them and figuring out if they're planning to attack the inmate living in the cell next to them, but we're also helping them navigate through the court and sentencing process."

Working in a detention center is not quite how it is portrayed on the big screen. For starters, Mrs. Cates was never armed when working inside the facility. "We can't have guns or batons," she said. "My ability to communicate and my physical skills—those were the only weapons I had."

Second, there is less excitement than what is seen on TV. "Some of what you see in entertainment is real, but most of what really happens is honestly so boring," she said. "They have to embellish it or no one would watch."

The daily routines may be the same, Mrs. Cates said, but the interactions could change in a day for better or worse.

"Some of my fondest memories are those moments when you realize you've touched someone's life in just the right way," she said. "You can say something to someone, and you can see the lightbulb go off. Unfortunately, you sometimes see that same person come back again and again."

Even though she will retire this year, Mrs. Cates intends to stay involved with the county through its important outreach to the community.

"As a volunteer, I am involved with ground support for our mounted unit," she said. "We take the horses to schools, and we read to the kids and they read to the horses. It's a lot of fun."

She has also served as part of her department's honor guard team, which pays respect to fallen law enforcement and service members, as well as their families. Her retirement bucket list includes a lot of travel with her husband, Mike: to Uganda to see the Rothschild's giraffes; to Norway to see the aurora borealis; and to Washington, D.C., to experience Police Week.

"I believe honoring our fallen, both law enforcement and military, is our duty," said the member of Toll Gate Creek DAR Chapter, Aurora, Colo. "It's important to remember why they lost their lives and that their sacrifice was for our freedom and safety."

★ *"Some of my fondest memories are those moments when you realize you've touched someone's life in just the right way. You can say something to someone, and you can see the lightbulb go off."*

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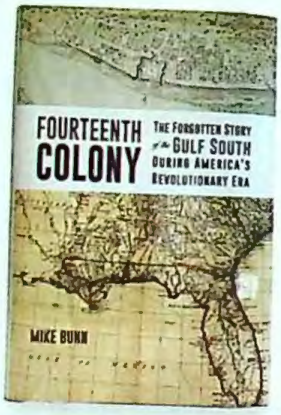
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The Fight for West Florida

During the American Revolution, America's Gulf Coast seemed worlds away from the battles raging in the 13 Atlantic Seaboard Colonies. This area, known as British West Florida, stretched from the Mississippi River to the Apalachicola River and included parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

It was originally settled by Spain, which, as an ally of France in the French and Indian War, was forced to cede it to the victorious British under the 1763 Treaty of Paris. During Britain's 18-year ownership, Pensacola was its capital, though it was a small, dilapidated settlement as were other settlements such as Natchez and Mobile.

The colony was poorly organized and defended. West Florida was so far from the East Coast that its residents knew little about the revolutionary fervor building in the American Colonies. Parliamentary actions that fueled Patriot anger stirred hardly a ripple in West Florida.



Author Mike Bunn dedicates the first half of *Fourteenth Colony: The Forgotten Story of the Gulf South During America's Revolutionary Era* (NewSouth Books, 2020) to describing the people, landscape and living conditions in 18th-century West Florida. American Indians made up the bulk of the population. The settler population was a mix of Spanish, British, French, some Americans and enslaved Blacks.

Contrary to glowing descriptions promoted by the British government in hopes of attracting settlers, West Florida was a difficult and dangerous place to live. The high heat and humidity staggered Europeans who were used to milder climes. Diseases ranging from malaria to unspecified "fevers" debilitated and often killed settlers and soldiers alike.

Nevertheless, the colony was a tempting target for Spanish Louisiana, which lay across the Mississippi River. When Spain agreed in the April 1779 Treaty of Aranjuez to aid its ally France against England, it set in motion plans to recapture the former province under the dynamic leadership of Bernardo de Gálvez, the Colonial Governor of Spanish Louisiana and later Viceroy of New Spain. (To read more about Gálvez, see "Our Patriots" in the May/June 2015 issue of *American Spirit*.)

The second half of the book is devoted to Gálvez's successful campaign against British West Florida. Under the leadership of General John Campbell, the West Florida Colony put up a determined defense against its larger, better-equipped foe. Pensacola's surrender on May 8, 1781, after a lengthy campaign and siege, returned West Florida to the Spanish and made Gálvez a hero.

Spain would not enjoy its success for long. The Spanish empire was already crumbling, and land-hungry Americans began to nibble at West Florida's borders, seeking rich land to grow cotton. The United States pressured Spain to cede more and more land until it gave up all claims in 1819, after Andrew Jackson's invasion in the First Seminole War, Bunn explains.

Fourteenth Colony vividly portrays West Florida's unique character and the obscure but important history of its part in the Revolutionary War. Bunn clearly describes Gálvez's campaign and the strategic and political backstories of both sides.

He introduces many colorful characters, including James Willing of Philadelphia, who convinced Congress in November 1777 to fund an expedition against West Florida. With two dozen companions in a boat called *Rattletrap*, he set out from Fort Pitt in January 1778, gathering recruits as he headed down the Mississippi.

In Bunn's telling, Willing was more marauder than military man. He and his piratical band wreaked havoc on British farms and settlements in West Florida, including some individuals with whom Willing had a score to settle.

Willing's raids panicked British officials and settlers. The colony's slow response revealed the military weakness of West Florida and helped spur Gálvez to action, Bunn details.

Bunn notes that there are other contenders for the title of "Fourteenth Colony," including British East Florida, Nova Scotia and Canada, with strong arguments for and against each claimant. He makes an excellent case that West Florida's location near the Mississippi River and its proximity to lands already attracting restless Americans give it the strongest claim.

The book includes numerous contemporary portraits, paintings and black-and-white engravings, as well as modern-day maps. Most of these items have been reduced to fit the pages, so the legends and other details are difficult to read without a good light and a magnifying glass. Aside from this, *Fourteenth Colony* is a welcome addition to the sprawling saga of the American Revolution and the concept of independence. — *Bill Hudgins*

~ A NECESSARY ~
Accessory

This odd-shaped small glass container is a highly personal accessory. It is a lady's urinal for travel, and it dates to the 18th century.

In an era when travel was far from luxurious and access to facilities along any route was uncertain, using one's own device, available at any moment, may have seemed preferable if not unavoidable.

Today, women can purchase pulp paper and plastic versions. If you are wondering how ladies "back then" would have managed this with all their skirts and under-petticoats, remember that they were not wearing drawers or underpants at this time, so discreet management under the skirt would have been possible. — *Alden O'Brien*



CARRIE BLOUGH

SERVICE TO AMERICA

Spotlighting DAR Volunteers Who Give Back to Their Communities in Meaningful Ways

A Warm Welcome for New Citizens

DAR members and chapters across the country encourage new citizens in many ways, including participating in naturalization ceremonies by welcoming and congratulating them as they begin their lives in their new chosen country.

Prior to COVID-19, members of the Lawrence Kearny DAR Chapter, Cape Coral, Fla., attended ceremonies at the federal courthouse in Fort Myers and were often invited as guest speakers. DAR members would greet the new citizens with a handshake and a welcome bag after the ceremony, Honorary Chapter Regent Dinah Osborn said.

"We had a DAR hospitality table decorated in a patriotic theme, and we served cookies and beverages," she said.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, ceremonies were restricted to only candidates for health and safety reasons, but the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services still welcomed personalized packets to be distributed.

Margie Cargile, Americanism Committee Chapter Chair and past Recording Secretary of the Lawrence Kearny Chapter, led members in putting together packets for new citizens. The group filled the packets with Constitution bookmarks, The Flag Code booklet, American Flag lapel pins attached to Lawrence Kearny Chapter business cards, and red-and-white mints. The packets were tied with red, white and blue ribbons. In 2021, chapter members assembled 435 welcome packets for naturalization ceremonies. They also baked cookies for the courthouse security guards.



Members of the Lawrence Kearny Chapter put together welcome packets for new citizens.



Members of the Hunt's Spring Chapter with Anna Nguyen, a new American citizen

Members of the Hunt's Spring DAR Chapter, Huntsville, Ala., recently participated in a graduation celebration for members of a citizenship class who had completed the naturalization process. Americanism Committee Chapter Chair Marsha Arzberger had contacted the class instructor in 2020 with a request to visit the students. COVID-19 restrictions prevented a visit, but the instructor gave Ms. Arzberger information on the class and the students who attended. Chapter Regent Karol Kapustka knew someone who distributed posters for the classes, so she and Ms. Arzberger decided to help distribute other materials with information on the free citizenship classes as a chapter project. They researched where information could best reach non-English speakers, and then chapter members circulated flyers and cards in 12 locations.

The chapter's Americanism Committee members also identified other Huntsville-area places to distribute notices about future free citizenship classes, and they compiled a database of likely places for flyers and cards to be placed, including neighborhoods, churches and ethnic grocery stores. The chapter will use this data to invite other members to participate and share posters in their neighborhoods.

Ms. Kapustka, Ms. Arzberger and Americanism Committee member Cristy Hunt prepared certificates of congratulations to give to the graduates. Member Mary Dohrman joined them at the ceremony to present the certificates and welcome boxes with U.S. Flags and other patriotic fare to the new citizens and to tell them about DAR. "They had a look of awe on their faces," Ms. Arzberger said. "Their pride in being a U.S. citizen was inspiring."

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Restoring Windows Into America's Past

Morven Museum and Garden, a historic house-turned-museum and National Historic Landmark in Princeton, N.J., was both home to and visited by many important historical figures throughout its time as a home, starting with the Stockton family in the mid-1700s and ending as the state's first Governor's Mansion (1945–1981). Morven is preparing for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. The former home of Richard Stockton—a signer of the Declaration—and his wife, Annis, has received several updates and renovations to meet the demands of increased visitation in the coming years. Thanks in part to a recent DAR Historic Preservation Grant sponsored by the Old White House-General Frelinghuysen-Colonel Lowrey DAR Chapter, Whitehouse, N.J., Morven recently completed the restoration of 58 windows and 108 shutters.

William Penn granted the land on which Morven was built to Stockton's grandfather, and the house was built around 1758. Its west wing was originally a shorter building, but the roof was raised to make the house two stories, and at least two additions expanded its footprint. Archaeological excavations on the property have revealed an 18th-century formal terrace, a 19th-century greenhouse and other examples of material culture. Today, the 5-acre grounds include the mansion, outbuildings, gardens and the Stockton Education Center, which hosts educational programs, family days, workshops and lectures.

The house and its collection are used as a lens through which visitors can more accurately learn about the past. The museum focuses on the house's entire history, not just the heads of state who lived there or visited. It also incorporates stories from those who labored at Morven, including women, children, enslaved people, servants and even state employees.



This repainted window and shutter shows two newly replicated hinges.
Inset: A shutter slide lock that had fallen off during the repair process

"The issues of the day affected everyone living at Morven, and it is surprising how relevant and reemerging those issues remain," said Jill Barry, executive director of the museum. "We see the actions of the civic responsibility of our earlier generations ring through to the issues of today. By sharing those stories in detail and honestly, we hope visitors better understand America today and take their civic responsibility equally importantly."

A windstorm in 2019 caused a shutter on the third story to fall, raising concern for visitor safety. Morven hired Baxter Construction to conduct an audit of the other windows, shutters and related masonry, and to complete the necessary work to address other issues. The structural elements of the windows and shutters had deteriorated, and hardware had rusted, requiring either resealing or total replacement. Some of the window failures allowed water leakage inside the house, damaging internal framing structures and creating potential fire hazards when water short-circuited a light fixture. Locks needed repairs, and some of the shutters had completely rotted, requiring panel replacement. Baxter sourced old growth hemlock dating to 1892 for the wood repairs and historic glass for replacement panes. The construction company also used zinc-coated copper caps, painted to match the shutters, to prevent moisture from seeping into the new shutters.

The museum closed briefly in February 2022 to repair and refinish some gallery floors. Remaining work includes HVAC repairs, lighting upgrades and replacing the UV-screening interior storm windows.

A Hilltop 'Kingdom'

Morven is translated from the Gaelic word for "big hill." Annis Boudinot Stockton, wife of Richard Stockton, named her home Morven after the mythical kingdom in the 1760s *The Poems of Ossian* by the Scottish poet James Macpherson. Annis built a friendship with George Washington through her own poetry, and George and Martha Washington were frequent guests at Morven.

Visit **morven.org** for hours of operation and more information.



Revolution Is for the Young

When we think about influential figures in American history, we often think of them as distinguished older men and women.

"We tend to see them—Adams, Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Rush, George Washington—as figures in a costume pageant; that is often the way they're portrayed," historian David McCullough said in a 2005 speech at Brigham Young University.

"And we tend to see them as much older than they were because we're seeing them in the portraits by Gilbert Stuart and others when they were truly the Founding Fathers when they were president or chief justice of the Supreme Court and their hair, if it hadn't turned white, was powdered white. ... At the time of the Revolution, they were all young. It was a young man's/young woman's cause."

Many of the leaders of the American Revolution were less than 40 years old when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. In fact, some leaders were even in their teens and 20s. Here's a sample of some of the youngest leaders in America's quest for independence.

Deborah Sampson

Age in 1776: 15



In 1782, at the age of 21, Deborah Sampson disguised herself as a man named Robert Shurtleff and joined the 4th Massachusetts Regiment. She led infantrymen on an expedition that ended in a confrontation with Tories, and even led a raid on a Tory home that resulted in the capture of 15 men. She received an honorable discharge in October 1783.

James Monroe

Age in 1776: 18

James Monroe was the last Founding

continued on page 12

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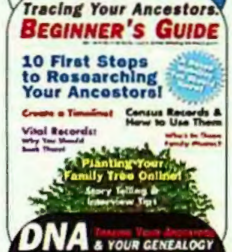




























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Revolution Is for the Young

continued from page 10

Father to serve as president, ending an era of American icons who built the new nation from the ground up. In 1776, Monroe cut short his college education at the College of William and Mary to join the Continental Army. He was severely wounded at the Battle of Trenton in New Jersey that same year, but was able to join General George Washington and his troops at Valley Forge during 1777–1778. In 1780, he began studying law under Thomas Jefferson, which spurred his career in politics.

Salem Poor

Age in 1776: 29



Salem Poor was born into slavery in Andover, Mass., in 1747. In 1769, when he was 22 years old, he purchased his freedom. In 1775, Poor enlisted in Captain James Frye's regiment of Massachusetts Minutemen and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. In mid-1777, Poor reenlisted for a three-year term with Colonel Edward Wigglesworth's 13th Massachusetts Regiment, which took him to Monmouth, N.J.; Saratoga, N.Y.; Valley Forge, Pa.; and White Plains, N.Y. In 1780, he returned home: free and with the status of a veteran.

Nathan Hale

Age in 1776: 21

In September 1776, General George Washington asked for a volunteer to gather information behind enemy lines before the Battle of Harlem Heights. Nathan Hale, a 21-year-old captain of the 19th Regiment of the Continental Army, stepped forward, becoming one of the first known spies of the Revolutionary War. Hale was captured on September 21, 1776, and interrogated by British General William Howe. When Hale was discovered carrying incriminating documents, Gen. Howe ordered his execution. Hale was hanged by the British on September 22, 1776, at the age of 21. His last words before he was hanged were, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

William Washington

Age in 1776: 24

William Washington, a distant cousin of General George Washington, was elected a captain of the Stafford County Minutemen in September 1775. He was present in December 1776 at the Battle of Trenton, where he led a charge against Hessian artillery. Though he was injured in the battle, he was promoted from Captain to Major and given a new assignment to create the 4th Regiment of Continental Light Dragoons.

Isaiah Thomas

Age in 1776: 27

In 1770, at the age of 21, Isaiah Thomas established the *Massachusetts Spy*, a newspaper aimed at middle-class readers, and he used it to rally support for the Revolutionary War. According to family legend, in 1776 Thomas became the first person in Massachusetts to read the Declaration of Independence when the rider carrying it from Philadelphia to Boston stopped in Worcester. Thomas took the document to the steps of the meetinghouse, the town's gathering place, and read it aloud to listening ears. ★

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In the Galleries

"SAVING SOLDIERS: MEDICAL PRACTICE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR"
The American Revolution Institute of The Society of the Cincinnati Washington, D.C.
americanrevolutioninstitute.org/exhibition/saving-soldiers-medical-practice-in-the-revolutionary-war

As many as 1,400 medical practitioners served in the Continental Army—but only about 10% had formal medical degrees. The rest honed their skills through apprenticeships with established physicians.

The "Saving Soldiers" exhibit at The American Revolution Institute explores the practice of medicine in the Continental Army and the experiences of surgeons and their patients during the war. On display are medical treatises published in the Colonies during the Revolution, as well as a Continental Army hospital register and a journal for a ship's sick bay that lists patients, treatments and outcomes. A cornerstone of the exhibit is a copy of *Directions for Preserving the Health of Soldiers*, a pamphlet written by Benjamin Rush that Congress published in 1778 for distribution to officers of the army. Also on exhibit are medical instruments and tools used by medical practitioners.

The exhibit is open through November 27, 2022.

"THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION ON CAPE COD"
Nye Museum East Sandwich, Mass.
nyemuseum.org/event/2022-special-exhibit-the-road-to-revolution-on-cape-cod

The Nye Museum's special summer 2022 exhibit explores the history of Cape Cod during the lead-up to the American Revolution. The exhibit shares how Cape Cod towns responded to the crisis with Britain and recounts harrowing stories of local leaders such as Stephen Nye, James Otis and Mercy Otis Warren, and Nathaniel Freeman. It also features archaeological artifacts and antiques.

"The Road to Revolution on Cape Cod" is open through October 15, 2022. ★

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A Revolutionary Discovery

In February 2021, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers found a cannon buried deep in the Savannah River as it worked on a $973 million project to deepen a 40-mile stretch of the river. Archaeologists initially thought the cannon was from a sunken Civil War ship, the CSS *Georgia*. However, after two other cannons were discovered, researchers confirmed that this was not the case. Further research indicates that the cannons are even older and actually sank during the Revolutionary War siege of Savannah in 1779. Experts suspect the cannons came from the British ship HMS *Savannah* and possibly the HMS *Venus*.







In just over a year, 16 more cannons have been hoisted from the same area of the Savannah River, just miles downstream from Savannah, where Georgia became the last of the 13 Colonies in 1733.

"They're in remarkably good shape," Andrea Farmer, an archaeologist for the Army Corps of Engineers, told The Associated Press. "Many were buried in clay and covered by silt and debris that kind of protected them."

Officials from the U.S. and British governments as well as from the state of Georgia are working together on an agreement to preserve the cannons before putting them on display. For now, the cannons are submerged in metal tubs of water to prevent further deterioration until experts can properly and carefully clean them. ★

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What's in a Name

Discover the meaning behind some of the DAR chapters' unique names.

Before Sarasota County ever existed, the land it was founded on was home to some of the oldest American Indian tribes on the west coast of Florida. These tribes consisted of the Calusa, Tocobaga and Timucuan people who fished and traveled throughout the region. When a new DAR chapter was being organized in Siesta Key off the coast of Sarasota, Fla., members called upon the assistance of William Crowley, the county conservation officer, and John Fales, an archaeologist, to suggest a name. Fales' previous discovery that American Indians indeed once inhabited the area suggested that perhaps an American Indian name should be considered. The American Indians knew a regional creature very well—the alligator, which they called *allapattah*. The members liked the musical sound of the name and selected it as their chapter name. The **Allapattah DAR Chapter**, Sarasota, Fla., was organized on December 20, 1964.

Chuquatonchee DAR Chapter in Houston, Miss., was organized November 1, 1975. *Chuquatonchee* is

What's in a Name

the American Indian name of a creek that divides Chickasaw County into east and west, which constitutes two judicial districts. On one occasion, Spanish conquistador Hernando de Soto and some American Indians met on friendly terms at this creek and shared their food, with de Soto furnishing meat and the Indians supplying corn. The creek was named Chuquatonchee, which means "hog and hominy," for the meal that took place there. The selection of the name of the chapter has a special significance since it symbolically unites Chickasaw County residents with an equal number of members from each of the two districts.

Harmony Hall DAR Chapter, Fort Washington, Md., was organized on April 14, 1984, and named after Harmony Hall Manor. The patent for "Battersea," the 500-acre parcel of land on which Harmony Hall Manor now sits, was granted in the 1660s. The present house is a 2 ½-story Georgian country house built of red brick circa 1769 by Enoch Mugruder. Walter Delaney Addison and his brother John Addison, both newly married, rented the house in 1793. Walter Addison's wife felt it was unusual for the two couples to live together so happily and suggested naming the house Harmony Hall. The name and the romantic story have outlived the legal name of Battersea. Harmony Hall Manor is managed by the U.S. National Park Service as part of the National Capital Parks-East system and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Harmony Hall Manor is listed on the NSDAR website under "Historic Preservation" and then under "Historic Sites and Properties." ★

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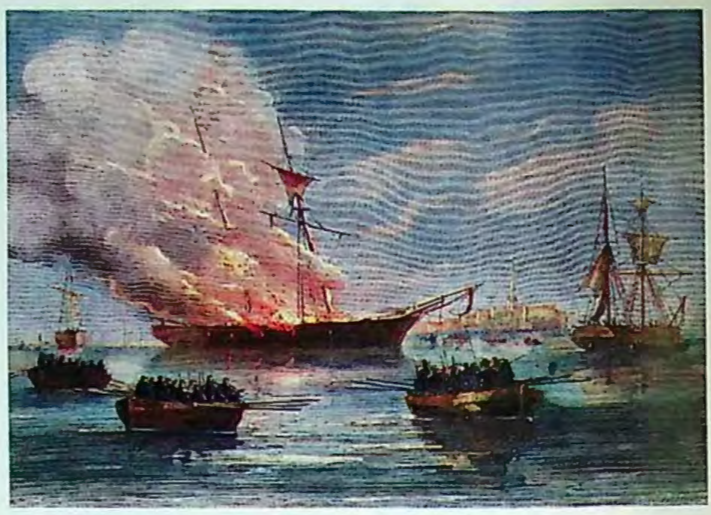
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Countdown to Independence

As the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence approaches, *American Spirit* will mark significant events leading up to that momentous time in American history.



On June 9, 1772, the British customs schooner *Gaspee* ran aground on a sandbar, where it was stuck until the tide change the following day. On June 10, Rhode Island Patriots set fire to the *Gaspee* in what was one of the Colonists' earliest acts of rebellion against England. The Colonial government launched an investigation the following day. In July, an indentured African American man named Aaron Biggs (Briggs) testified he had been forced to participate in the raid and identified prominent merchants John and Joseph Brown as the ringleaders. However, Biggs' master and two other servants flatly contradicted his testimony. A month later, a frustrated King George III formed the *Gaspee* Commission to continue the inquiry. He ordered the commissioners to send any suspects to England for trial, a breach of existing custom and English law that outraged Patriots throughout the Colonies. Despite rewards being offered, no one was ever charged, and the inquiry ended in June 1773. (Read more about the burning of the *Gaspee* in the May/June 2016 issue of *American Spirit*.) ★



American Spirit Inspires Conservation Efforts

Did you see *American Spirit*'s story in the November/December 2021 issue about the discovery of John Claypoole's long-lost diary, found in a shoebox in a Northern California garage?

Claypoole, the third husband of Betsy Ross, kept a diary during 1781–1782 that was published in the late 1800s. However, its location had been unknown to scholars for nearly a century. That is, until Aileen Edge found it when cleaning out her late mother's garage. Edge and her family donated the diary, along with a family Bible that belonged to Claypoole's mother, to the Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR) in Philadelphia.



Earlier this year, the MoAR contacted *American Spirit* with exciting news. The Patriotic Order Sons of America—one of America's oldest patriotic and fraternal societies still in existence—saw *American Spirit*'s story about the discovery and contacted the museum asking if the organization could support the conservation of the diary and Bible.

According to Alex McKechnie, communications director at the museum, Claypoole's diary received treatment to stabilize and preserve it for exhibition and research. It was gently cleaned, tears were repaired, and detached and loose pages were reattached.

"The diary was also photographed, and a facsimile was made in order to facilitate research without anyone needing to handle the original," McKechnie said. "The Bible's conservation is similar, but it will be rebound, and a cloth-covered case will be made for its storage." The diary is now back on display at the Museum. ★

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THE SUN CITY

Amid a sun-drenched desert terrain, multicultural El Paso celebrates its border-town heritage

/ By Kim Hill /





Sited along the banks of the Rio Grande River, El Paso, Texas, has a vibrant and diverse culture heavily influenced by its history under Spanish rule and its proximity to Mexico. Spanish explorers approaching from the south in the 16th century viewed two mountain ranges rising out of what we now call the Chihuahuan Desert, with a deep chasm between the ranges. The Spaniards named the site *El Paso del Norte*, or "the Pass of the North." The pass has been a continental crossroads since the Spanish arrived, foreshadowing what is now called the "Borderplex," made up of the cities of El Paso and neighboring Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

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Earliest Human Settlements

Archaeological evidence suggests humans lived in the El Paso area more than 10,000 years ago. Hueco Tanks is a rocky area lying between two mountain ranges—the Franklin Mountains to the west and the Hueco Mountains to the east. Rainwater pools in natural rock basins there known as *hueco*, pronounced "whey-coe," a Spanish word meaning hole or cavity. For thousands of years, people trekked to these basins to collect rainwater, which was, of course, critical for survival in the desert.

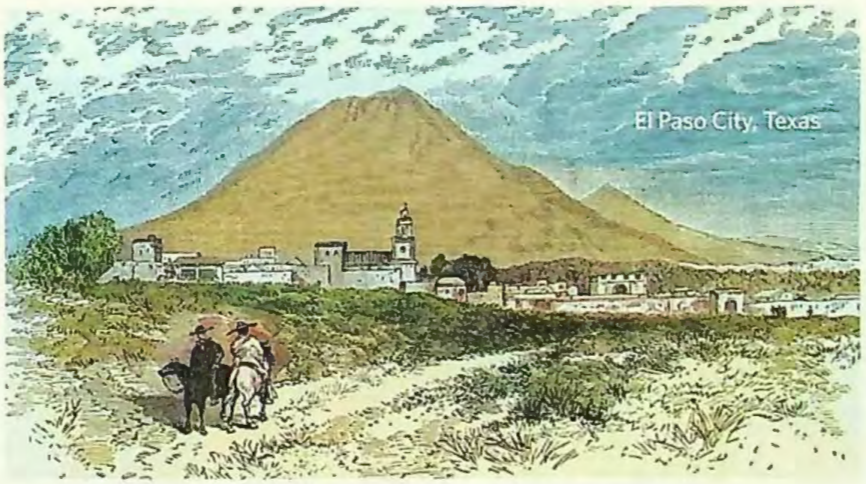
The Jornada Mogollon people began cultivating corn, beans and squash at the base of the rock hills around A.D. 1150. Remains of their agricultural lives include pottery shards, stone tools and water control features.

Native peoples also depicted their lives in pictographs and petroglyphs of animals, deities and other subjects. The most renowned images are "masks" or face designs.

Spanish Explorers

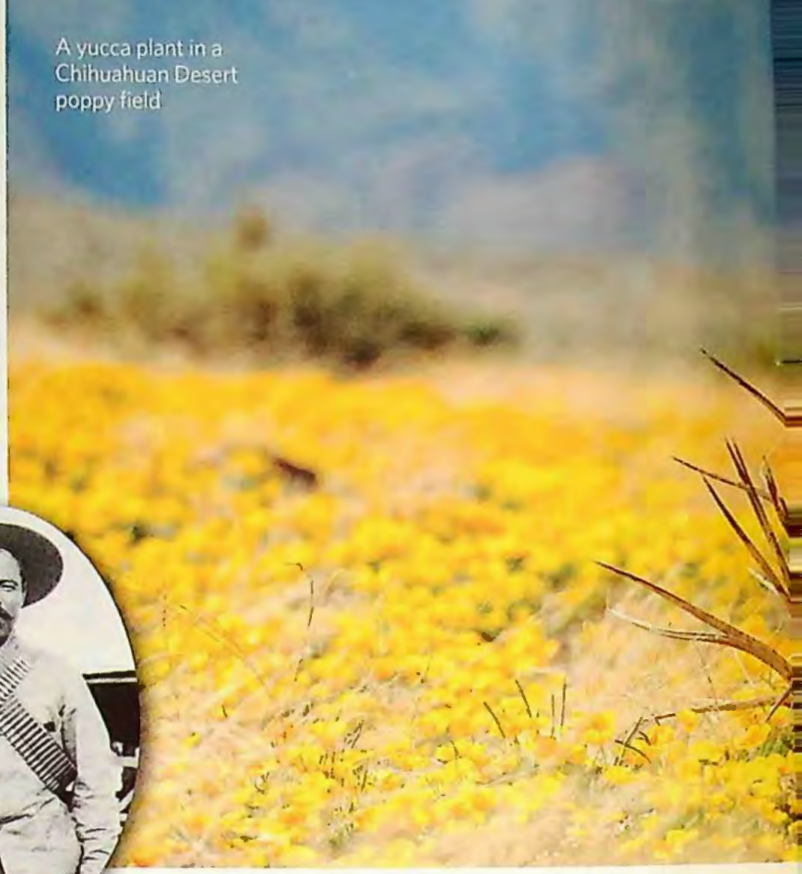
Spaniards founded El Paso del Norte, the present-day Ciudad Juárez, on the south bank of the Rio Grande River in 1659. Spanish settlement centered on the river's south bank, while the north bank remained largely undeveloped during most of the period of Spanish control.

In 1680, after the Pueblo Revolt drove Spanish colonizers out of present-day northern New Mexico, El Paso became the base for Spanish governance in the region. Ysleta Mission Church was established in 1680 and maintained by Franciscans to Christianize the Tigua Indians, who had come to the area as refugees and captives after the Pueblo Revolt. From the small village of



El Paso, the Spanish governor led the reconquest of the New Mexican territory in 1692, reestablishing Santa Fe as the territorial capital.

In 1827 Juan María Ponce de León, a wealthy merchant in present-day Ciudad Juárez, was given a land grant for 215 acres on the north bank of the Rio Grande. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo made these northern-bank settlements part of the United States in 1848. The next year, Army officer and inventor Anson Mills surveyed and laid out a town on Ponce de León's rancho and named it El Paso. The layout of present-day downtown El Paso still follows this original plan.


A yucca plant in a Chihuahuan Desert poppy field

Crime and vice followed the rapid population growth in the 1880s, earning El Paso the nicknames "Six Shooter Capital" and "Sin City."

Railroads Transform Village Into Boomtown

According to the Texas State Historical Association, the arrival of the railroads in the early 1880s was the single most significant event in El Paso history, transforming an adobe village of several hundred people into a flourishing frontier community with a population of more than 10,000 by 1890. Crime and vice followed the rapid population growth, earning El Paso the nicknames "Six Shooter Capital" and "Sin City." One of the last Old West-style gunfights reportedly occurred in an El Paso saloon. By 1905, the city enacted ordinances closing houses of gambling and prostitution.


Pancho Villa

During the Mexican Revolution (1910–1920), most of the intense battles and intrigue were centered in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. Pancho Villa and other Mexican revolutionary leaders met in El Paso to plan and equip their troops. Refugees crowded into El Paso, and international journalists and photographers filled hotels to report on the conflict.

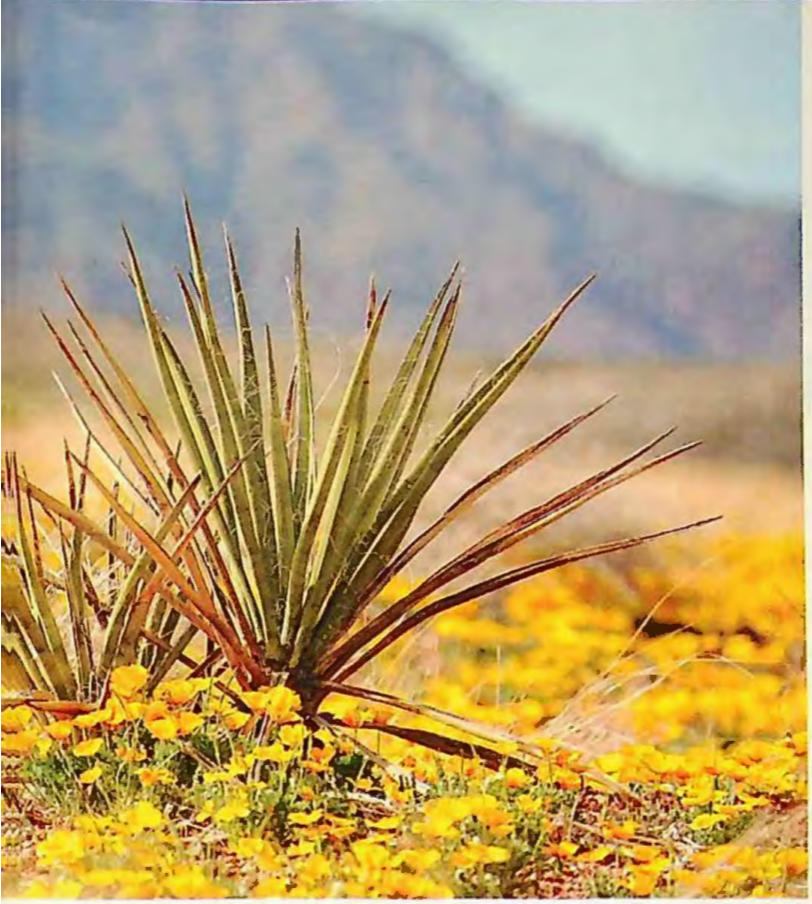
Visitors can learn more about the city's multicultural and multinational past at the **El Paso Museum of History**. Its 35-foot-long digital wall presents an interactive, three-dimensional view of 400 years of El Paso history. The award-winning **El Paso Museum of Art** was developed to house a significant donation of European Baroque and Renaissance pieces to the city. Today the museum's permanent collection includes more than 7,000 works of American, European and Latin American art.


San Elizario Chapel

All three adobe churches on the **El Paso Mission Trail** are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. **Ysleta Mission** is recognized as the oldest continuously operated parish in the state of Texas. Two miles east, **Socorro Mission** was founded to serve those fleeing New Mexico during the Pueblo Revolt. The present mission was constructed of adobe surfaced with stucco around 1840 to replace an earlier building. Founded by the Spanish in 1789, **San Elizario Chapel** is built in the traditional Spanish Mission style.

Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site has the largest grouping of native

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Hueco Tanks State Historical Park

masks in North America, with more than 200 identified. The park also has some of the best rope-free rock climbing in the country.

Fort Bliss, the United States Army's second-largest installation overall, is home to the 1st Armored Division. Learn about Fort Bliss history, from its role in exploring and mapping the western frontier to the present, and view numerous tanks and armored vehicles from the 1st Armored Division's storied past at the **1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss Museum. Old Fort Bliss Replica**, a cultural living history program, is an exact replica of the original adobe fort, which was part of the frontier military era (1854–1868).

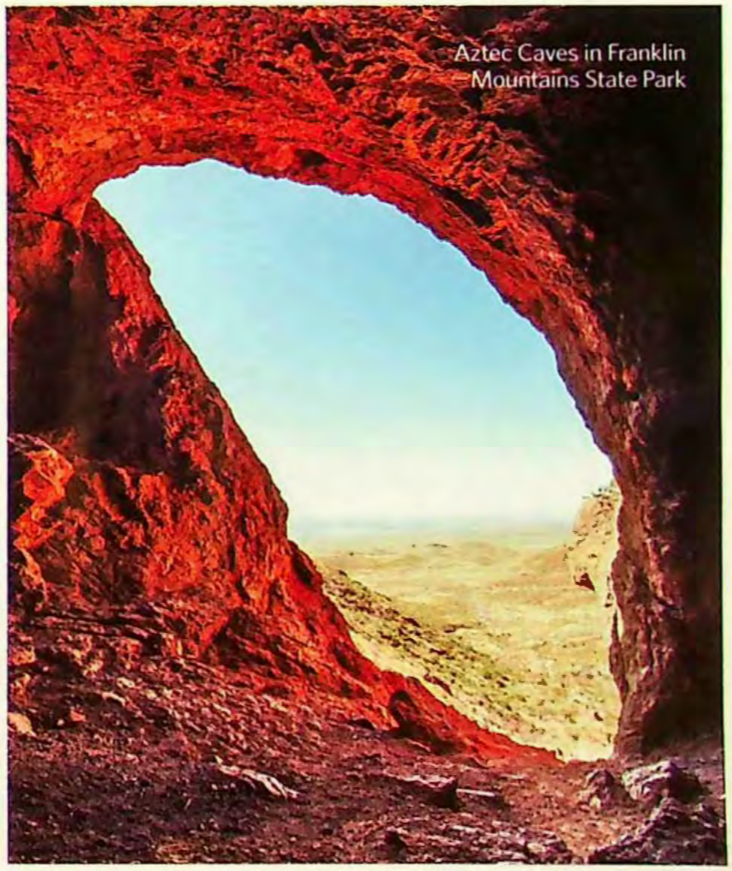
Sun and Fun

El Paso averages nearly 300 days of sunshine a year. The aptly named Sun Bowl college football game, first played in 1935, is played annually in the stadium of the same name at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP).

The UTEP campus is home to the **Chihuahuan Desert Gardens**, showcasing succulents, agaves, and other native and adapted plants. Yuccas, ocotillos and prickly pear cacti abound along the Aztec Cave Trail in **Franklin Mountains State Park**. The summit of the park's North Franklin Mountain Peak Trail affords a nearly 360-degree view of El Paso, the Mexican border and New Mexico.

It's not everywhere you can walk, jog or ride a bike along an international border, but you can in El Paso. The paved **River Park Trail** extends 21 miles along the Rio Grande from Anthony, Texas, to the New Mexico state line. View the Rio Grande on one side of the trail and the peaks of the Franklin Mountains on the other.

For more stunning views, travel along the aptly named **Scenic Drive**. The winding road is cut along the southern tip of the Franklins. For optimal viewing of El Paso and neighboring Ciudad Juárez, pull over to a small park and scenic overlook. Need refreshments after spending so much time outdoors? Legend has it that the margarita was first introduced in the 1940s in the El Paso region. Tourism officials tout a **Margarita Trail**, with helpful hints for finding local watering holes and authentic Mexican and Tex-Mex restaurants. From missions to margaritas, Old West outlaws to ocotillos and rock climbing to ranchos, there's something of interest to everyone who visits the westernmost city in Texas.



Aztec Caves in Franklin Mountains State Park

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The Historic Oasis of BLOUNT MANSION

DAR Members Rescued a Tennessee Landmark Nearly a Century Ago

/ by Elizabeth Mariano Mubarek /



Juxtaposed between mid-rise 1980s-vintage towers and a freeway in downtown Knoxville, Tenn., the Blount Mansion property is all that remains of the city's original waterfront neighborhood. Constructed in 1792 as a home for William Blount and his family, today the property comprises the mansion itself, the circa-1818 Craighead-Jackson House next door and beautifully landscaped public gardens. The property stands as Knoxville's oldest operating museum as well as the city's only National Historic Landmark.

William Blount: Founding Father, Politician and Businessman

William Blount was born on March 26, 1749, to an aristocratic North Carolina family and rose to prominence in the Continental Army during the American Revolution as a purchasing agent and later as a paymaster. By the end of the war, he was serving as official commissary to General Horatio Gates.

In 1780, Blount was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons and served as a delegate to the Continental Congress during 1782–1783, kick-starting his political career. When his term in the House ended in 1784, he took a short break from public service but returned to the Continental Congress in 1786. A year later, at the age of 38, he was chosen to represent North Carolina at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia.

"At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Blount was more of a signer than a framer," said Michael L. Jordan, director of marketing and public relations at Blount Mansion. "He was not a big ideas guy like Mason, Madison and Washington. He was just there with a narrow interest of representing North Carolina and preserving its interests as best he could ... but he was there, and he is important." On September 17, 1787, Blount was one of 39 men who signed the United States Constitution.

While serving as state senator in 1790, Blount was appointed governor of the Territory South of the River Ohio, more commonly known as the Southwest Territory, by President George Washington and named Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southwest. Blount had married Mary Mosley Grainger in 1778, and his governorship required the couple and their five children to move to the Southwest Territory. Construction began in 1792 on Blount Mansion as a home for Blount and his growing family. He would father nine children with Mary; seven of the children would outlive him.



As governor, Blount ensured that the Southwest Territory was the 16th state admitted to the Union as Tennessee in 1796. He was elected one of its first U.S. senators. However, in July 1797, it was revealed that Blount was involved in a conspiracy to aid Great Britain in seizing Spanish-controlled Louisiana with the goal of increasing land prices in the West. His participation in this conspiracy led to his expulsion from the Senate and the first federal impeachment.

"In a lot of ways, Blount was a businessman masquerading as a politician. Everything he did was aimed, like a lot of early Founding Fathers, at his own interests," said David Hearnes, executive director of Blount Mansion. "He was not stealing from the government, but he was still conducting business while a governor and a senator, and basically, he went bankrupt. ... He got into a very ill-concealed and ill-conceived conspiracy."

The scandal did little to hurt his standing in Tennessee, where he continued to serve as a state senator until his death in March 1800 during an apparent yellow fever epidemic.

The 'Warts and All' Approach to Interpretation

Given the governor's rather checkered career, Blount Mansion's management



Governor Blount's office

OPPOSITE PAGE: ©MICHAEL BYERLEY; BLOUNT PAINTING BY SARAH WARD CONLEY, TENNESSEE STATE MUSEUM; INSET, MIKE O'NEILL

takes a "warts and all" approach to interpreting his accomplishments on behalf of Tennessee as well as his shortcomings and flaws.

"Blount was a dichotomy. He did good things and bad things," Hearnes said. "He signed the Constitution yet was a slaveholder. He created the state of Tennessee, but he got caught for treason. He has this legacy that just makes him that much more interesting to talk about because he isn't necessarily George Washington, whom everybody sees as being a good guy all the time."

Mary died just two years after Blount. Because of bankruptcy at the end of Blount's life, most of the family's possessions were sold after the couple's deaths to satisfy debts and help to fund care for their children. As a result, few Blount family pieces are on display. Most of the items displayed date from about 1750 to 1820, and many were acquired by the mansion between the 1930s and 1940s. A few notable pieces belonged to prominent early Tennesseans.



Postcard circa 1930s-1940s

Though not original to the mansion, the Statehood Desk, on which the Constitution of Tennessee was signed, is one of the most important pieces showcased. The desk was originally in the office of David Henley, who served as the agent for the U.S. Department of War for Tennessee from 1793 to 1801. The desk now resides at the mansion in Gov. Blount's office, which is deemed fitting as he did so much work to create the state.

The Role of Women at the Mansion

At a time when most homes in the territory were log cabins, Blount Mansion was built as a proper wood-frame home, constructed of sawn lumber. Building with this material was done at Mary's insistence because of her reluctance to leave her comfortable lifestyle in North Carolina to move to the more rustic frontier with her husband.

The mansion is believed to be the first wood-frame house built west of the Appalachians, and it subsequently became a center of activity for the territory. Anyone wanting to do business with the governor had to visit the mansion to meet with Blount. Visitors included a "who's who" of leaders in the territory and young state.

More than a century later, in recognition of the architectural and historical importance of the house, the Bonny Kate DAR Chapter, Knoxville, Tenn., headed the effort to save the structure from demolition. Chapter Regent Mary Boyce Temple wrote a check in 1925 for the $100 needed to secure the mansion. With this purchase, the chapter began working to save the structure.

The Blount Mansion Association Inc. was established in 1925 as a nonprofit organization and charged with the care of the property going forward. Ms. Temple, who was also the Tennessee State Society's honorary Regent, served as the association's first president.

Though the mansion was restored and opened for tours by 1930, the Great Depression and World War II delayed some of the more substantial renovations. Between 1950 and 1975, the chapter accomplished a significant amount of work to redevelop the site and further restore the property.

Blount Mansion features the only public gardens in downtown Knoxville. The Knoxville Garden Club, which has partnered with the mansion since 1934, hired Colonial Williamsburg landscape architect Alden Hopkins in 1958 to design a new, more authentic garden, which was completed by his associate Donald Parker.

Similarly, the Craighead-Jackson House, operated by the Blount Mansion Association since 1962, boasts a lovely

In 1925, the Bonny Kate DAR Chapter headed the effort to save the structure from demolition by donating $100 to secure the mansion.



The east wing

MIKE O'NEIL; BOSTON PUBLIC MUSEUM

Colonial-era inspired garden. In 1972, the Knoxville Garden Study Club, a young women's affiliate of the Knoxville Garden Club, commissioned Edith Henderson of Georgia, one of the first women in the United States to be an accredited landscape architect, to design the gardens behind the house. Neglected in recent decades, the gardens are returning to their original grandeur, thanks to Daughters from across the region who have volunteered to restore them. The Tennessee State Society NSDAR, along with several chapters, has also raised money to plant trees as part of the restoration.

According to Tennessee State Regent Cecile Wimberley, local chapters continue to support the mansion. Every October, five Knox County chapters host a Blount Mansion workday, bringing Daughters together to clean, garden and maintain the property. The Bonny Kate DAR Chapter continues its original mission to support Blount Mansion financially and through volunteer service. The chapter holds regular meetings on the property, and several members have served on the Blount Mansion Association Board.

"In the life of the museum, there have almost always been women who were either DAR or Colonial Dames involved in both the Garden Club and in our board," Hearnes said. "To the best of my knowledge, we did not have a male board president until 1980. There were men involved, but not in that role."

The connection that Hearnes describes makes it clear that Blount Mansion's continued existence is owed to the DAR. The Bonny Kate DAR Chapter's and the Tennessee State Society's investments in preserving the property and its history have allowed others the chance to experience the role Blount Mansion and William Blount played in Tennessee's founding.

Visit The Mansion

Blount Mansion is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour starting at 3 p.m. It is closed Sunday through Tuesday. Visit **blountmansion.org** for more information.

BLOUNT MANSION

Enslavement at the Mansion





The Blount Mansion was home not only to William Blount and his family, but also to dozens of people enslaved by Blount.

Lisa Oakley from the East Tennessee History Center found much of the information on the enslaved individuals while researching her master's thesis in 1993. She was able to identify 26 individuals of African descent enslaved by the Blount family as of 1797, thanks to a deed of transfer completed at the time of Blount's bankruptcy.

In the early to mid-1990s, Dr. Charles Faulkner of the University of Tennessee completed extensive archaeology of the slave quarters at the mansion. The team was able to identify the midden pits (an archaeological term for a trash heap), the privy and the location of the slave quarters.

Limited information has been obtained on at least seven of the enslaved individuals, and Blount Mansion seeks to include their stories as part of the home's interpretation.

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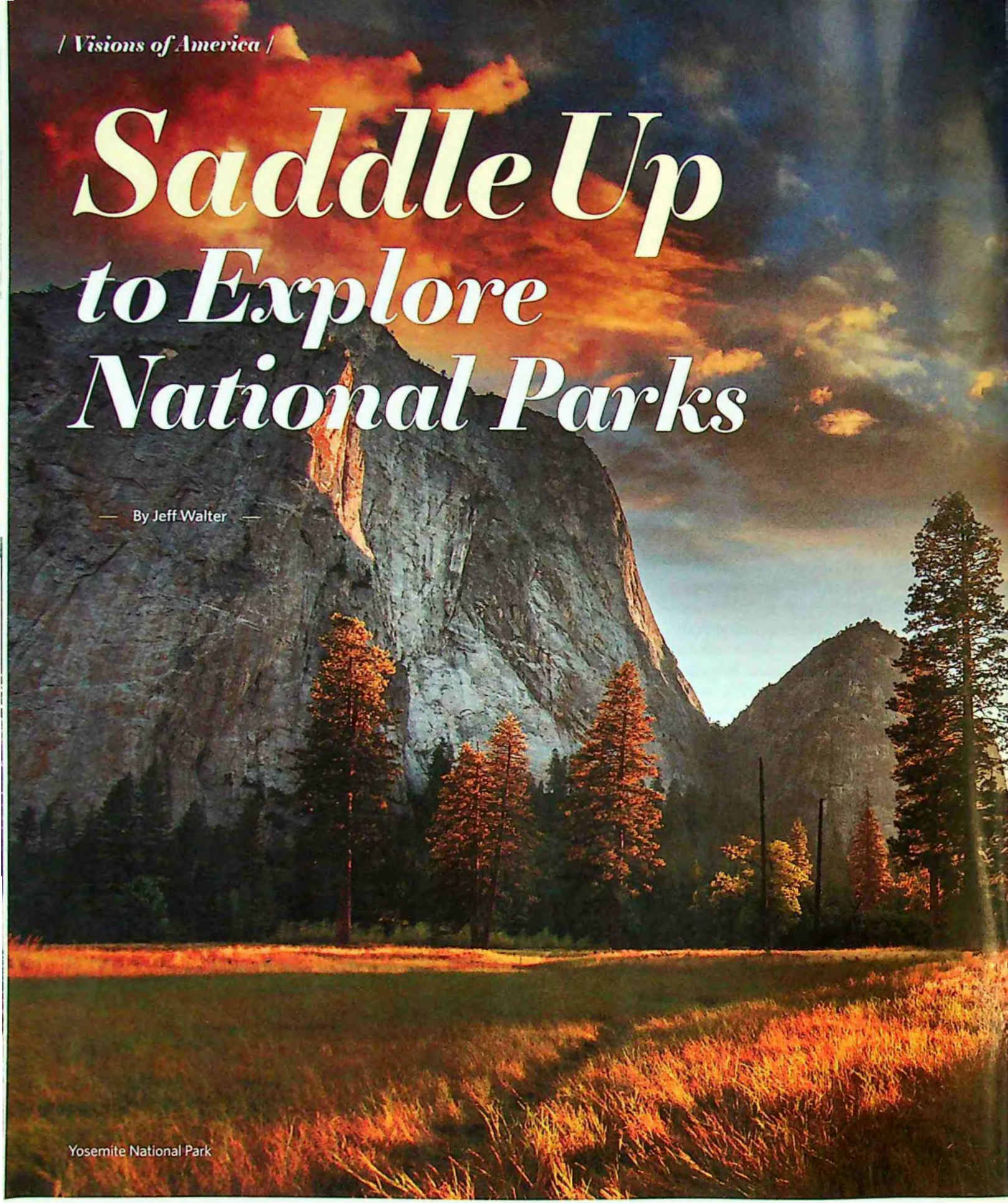


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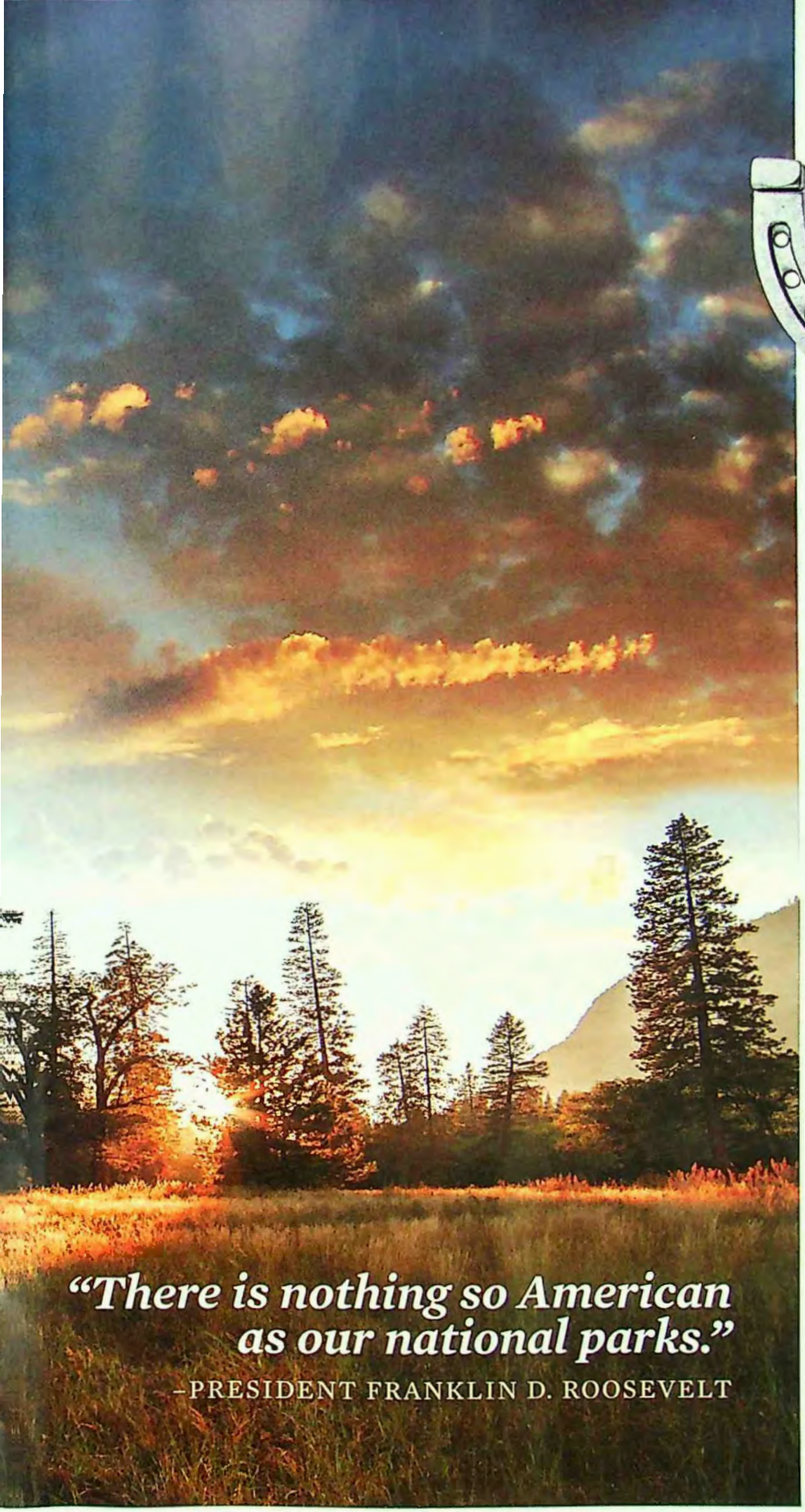
HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUMS of KNOXVILLE

Saddle Up to Explore National Parks

— By Jeff Walter —



Yosemite National Park



GETTY IMAGES



Horseback can be an invigorating way to experience the rich diversity of topography, flora and fauna in America's national parks, many of which permit some form of equestrian exploration.

Mountains, volcanoes, canyons, waterfalls, lakes, creeks, rivers, rainforests and meadows are some of the scenic vistas waiting to be savored from atop a trusty steed. Here are some of the equestrian options available.

1

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
CALIFORNIA

+ ***travelyosemite.com***
+ ***nps.gov/yose/index.htm***

From stunning waterfalls to breathtaking valleys, vast wilderness areas to sprawling meadows and groves of ancient giant sequoias to thick pine forest, the nearly 1,200-square-mile Yosemite offers an exhilarating feast for the senses. Glaciers carved much of this rugged Sierra Nevada landscape of peaks and canyons from granite, and two remaining glaciers continue to supply local ecosystems with fresh, cold water.

Acclaimed photographer Ansel Adams drew a lifetime of inspiration

from Yosemite, turning its landscapes into immortal black-and-white art, and a museum in the park showcases his works.

To experience it up-close and in living color, bring your own horse or join a guided ride. Travel Yosemite, the concessionaire for Yosemite, offers a two-hour horse or mule ride from Wawona Stables that follows an early pioneer route along a historic wagon road. For experienced, physically fit riders, there is also a challenging all-day ride leading to the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias. These trips are available from spring through fall.


Yellowstone National Park

2

Yellowstone National Park
WYOMING

+ ***yellowstone.org***
+ ***nps.gov/yell/index.htm***

The world's first national park, established by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872, is a hot spot in more than one sense. In addition to being one of America's most popular national parks, the 2.2 million-acre Yellowstone National Park contains more geysers—500-plus, which is half the world's total—and hot springs than anywhere else on earth. Old Faithful is its most famous geyser. Sitting atop a dormant volcano, Yellowstone also teems with bubbling mud pots and fumaroles, which are vents in the earth's surface that emit steam and other gases reaching up to 280 degrees Fahrenheit. Other geothermal features at Yellowstone give the ground a fiery glow.

Yellowstone, which extends into Idaho and Montana, is not all fire and brimstone. The park is also home to waterfalls; arrays of wildflowers in season; glorious fall colors; and bison, elk, bears, wolves, river otters, bald eagles and dozens of other species.

You can bring your own horse or rent from a stock outfitter for trail riding during the spring, summer and fall, and overnight equine accommodations are available in the backcountry.

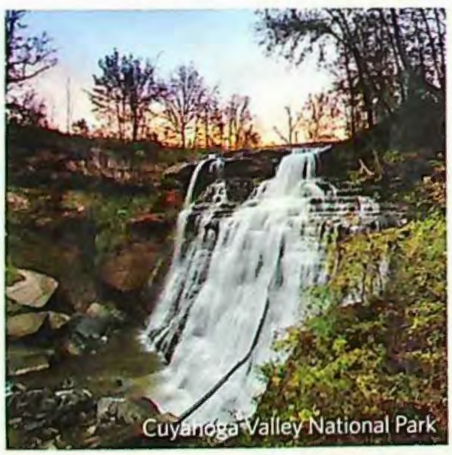
Bonus tip: Grand Teton National Park, another horse-worthy park, and its alpine, lake and meadow views are about 30 miles away.

3

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
OHIO

+ ***conservancyforcvnp.org***
+ ***nps.gov/cuva/index.htm***

This park in northeastern Ohio shares its name with the river that runs through it. Cuyahoga means "crooked river" in the language of the Mohawk people, who once inhabited the region, but the river achieved notoriety in 1969 when it caught fire in Cleveland, a few miles north of today's national park, as a result of accumulated industrial pollution. Cuyahoga Valley was named a national recreation area five years later, and it became a national park in 2000.


Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Cuyahoga Valley National Park is recognized for its 33,000 acres of trails, with dozens of picturesque waterfalls, thick deciduous forest, rolling hills, fertile farmland, a scenic railroad and caves enhancing its beauty. You can find hundreds of species of animals, including deer, coyotes and beavers, as well as a variety of fish, reptiles and amphibians.

No horse rentals are available near the park's bridle trails, but you can bring your own horse, and the park offers horse camping accommodations.


Haleakala National Park

4

Haleakalā National Park
HAWAI'I

+ ***gohawaii.com/islands/maui/regions/upcountry-maui/haleakala-national-park***
+ ***nps.gov/hale/index.htm***

For sheer ecological diversity, it is hard to beat Haleakalā on the island of Maui, with its lush rainforests and rocky coastline. The park is home to a volcanic crater considered sacred by many Native Hawai'ians, both past and present. The park has the most endangered species of any U.S. national park, among them the flowering silversword shrub (aka *ahinahina*), the Hawai'ian monk

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, GETTY IMAGES



seal, the Hawai'ian hoary bat, and the "nene" or Hawai'ian goose, which is the official state bird.

Horses and mules have been critical to accessing and preserving the park. Before the Haleakalā Highway opened in 1935, Haleakalā Crater was accessible only by hiking or horseback. Today, park staff use mule teams to conduct preservation work inside the crater.

Although the park does not offer horseback riding tours, visitors may bring their own pack animals on several trails.

5

Capitol Reef National Park

UTAH

+ ***capitolreef.org/attractions/capitol-reef-national-park/***
+ ***nps.gov/care/index.htm***

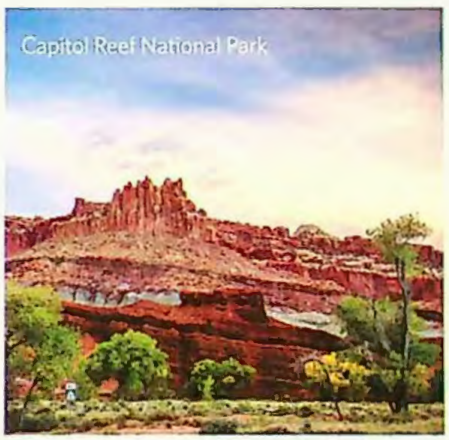
In search of a remote experience? Capitol Reef has it, with much of the park inaccessible by modern road. It is worth the effort to get there, however, as you will discover a wonderland of red rocks, sandstone canyon walls and other geological marvels.

The park's name has a twofold inspiration, according to the National Park Service: "capitol" inspired by the white domes of Navajo sandstone and "reef" named for the rocky cliffs. The Waterpocket Fold, a 100-mile-long monocline, or step-like fold in the earth's crust, is estimated to have formed 50 million to 70 million years ago, possibly during the continental shift that created the Rocky Mountains. Layers of sedimentary rock have revealed fossils of dinosaurs as well as oysters dating to ancient periods when a sea covered the area.

Desert bighorn sheep, adept at traversing the rocky terrain, and cottonwood trees are among the animal and plant life you might encounter.

While Capitol Reef permits equestrian activities, the only overnight facilities for stock users are in the Waterpocket District's Equestrian Staging Area. A lack of water is a limiting factor, the National Park Service advises.

Bonus tip: Bryce Canyon National Park, another horseback riding favorite, is about a two-hour drive away. Zion National Park is about three hours away.



6

Acadia National Park

MAINE

+ ***visitacadia.com***
+ ***nps.gov/acad/index.htm***

This 49,000-acre park, which welcomed a record-shattering 4 million visitors in 2021, hugs Maine's Atlantic coast. Habitats range from rocky beaches and deep forests to glacier-carved granite peaks—most notably Cadillac Mountain, the highest point on the eastern seaboard and for five months of the year the first place in America to see the sunrise. Visitors enjoy viewing whales and other wildlife.



American businessman and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. looms large in Acadia's history. Rockefeller preferred horse and carriage to motor vehicle while traveling on the coastal Mount Desert Island. He financed the construction of 45 miles of carriage roads from about 1914 to 1940. Those roads, noted for their eco-friendly design and magnificent stone bridges, were among the 11,000 acres he donated to the park.

Today you can enjoy one- or two-hour carriage rides through Wildwood Stables (though rides book up well in advance). Or bring your own pack animal and enjoy access to much of the park's trails and roads. Horse camping is also available. Note: During the spring "mud season," horse travel is restricted on the carriage roads.

Before You Go

Depending on the park, you may be able to travel the backcountry by—and even camp with—stock animals such as horses, mules or llamas. BYOB (bring your own beast) to carry you or your gear or rent one from a private outfitter licensed to provide guided trips. Plan ahead, as regulations and restrictions vary, permits may be required, and trails may close seasonally or as a result of a natural catastrophe such as fire, flooding or for rehabilitation. Always contact the individual park ahead of your visit for details.

GETTY IMAGES

Creating Landmarks and Milestones

AMES TOOLS HAS BEEN HELPING BUILD AMERICA SINCE 1774

/ By Emily McMackin Dye /



A circa-1912 print advertisement for Ames Garden Tools

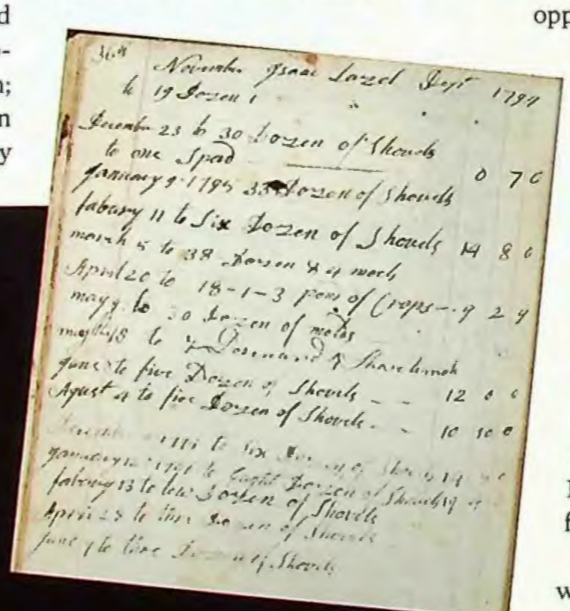
Along the banks of the Town River in West Bridgewater, Mass., sits a small park that once housed one of America's first industrial parks. Remnants of the weirs and dams that powered 18th-century mills occupy the site where shovels, nails and farming tools were forged. A building block of the town's industrial heritage remains in production today.

Founded in 1774 by Captain John Ames, Ames Tools was the first company to manufacture metal shovels in the Colonies. Its humble digging tool built countless structures across the United States as the nation grew and expanded. Ames shovels broke ground for the first canals, railroads and subway tunnels; aided westward expansion; dug trenches for nearly every American war; and helped construct modern-day wonders including Hoover Dam, Mount Rushmore and the Golden Gate Bridge, among other historic feats.

The company also ushered in groundbreaking developments in mass production, labor and technology during the Industrial Revolution. The ingenuity and innovative drive of its owners have powered more than two centuries of prosperity for the business, which continues to thrive as a leading maker of hand tools and one of America's oldest consumer brands.

While its product portfolio has changed since its inception, its focus on making durable, high-quality tools has been a north star that has enabled Ames to navigate the many changes throughout its history, said Scott Wise, Ames' vice president of sourcing and company historian.

"It's a uniquely American story of what it takes to grow a business," Wise said. "When you think of all the blacksmith shops in early America, few continued to operate for a century or more. Ames has been able to achieve that because of its willingness to adapt, evolve and invest in opportunities that helped grow the business and secure its supply."



CAPTAIN AMES' LEDGER

Captain John Ames kept track of transactions in this ledger from 1773 through 1804.

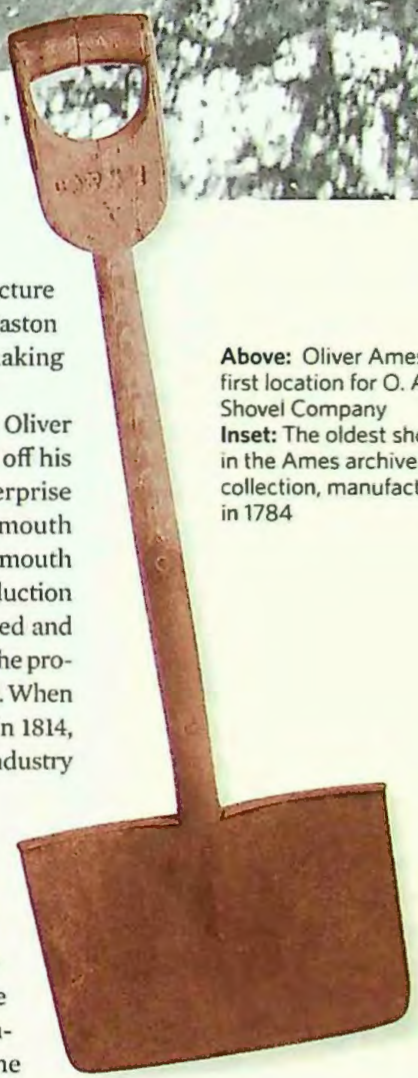
From a Blacksmith Shop to a Business Empire

The story of Ames Tools began with Capt. Ames, an English blacksmith and Massachusetts militia captain whose family immigrated to the New World around 1637. Like his ancestors who worked in New England's first iron blast furnaces, he gravitated to industrial work. His blacksmith operation in West Bridgewater produced everything from guns to iron-bladed shovels.

Shovels at that time were mostly wooden—and no match for the rocky, clay-packed New England soil. The

COURTESY OF STONEHILL COLLEGE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COLLECTIONS; THE AMES COMPANIES INC.





Above: Oliver Ames' first location for O. Ames Shovel Company
Inset: The oldest shovel in the Ames archive collection, manufactured in 1784

only iron shovels available were imported from England, and they became hard to buy once Colonists began boycotting British-made goods in the days before the American Revolution.

Capt. Ames was the first blacksmith to "make shovels in some kind of usable quantity," said Edmund Hands, a historian for the Easton Historical Society and Museum in North Easton, Mass. During the war, Capt. Ames supplied guns to the Massachusetts militia—and legend has it that Patriot soldiers used his shovels to dig into the high hills above Boston Harbor during the 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill.

His son, Oliver Ames, took over the blacksmith shop in 1803. With no room to expand in West Bridgewater, Oliver moved the bulk of the operation to Easton, a neighboring town with a rich supply of bog iron. He invested $1,600 to purchase a defunct forge, nail-making shop, a house and several tracts of land, and established the O. Ames Shovel Company. "With its natural resources, factory infrastructure and pool of skilled ironworkers, Easton proved to be an ideal spot for making batches of shovels," Hands said.

When Capt. Ames died in 1805, Oliver needed an influx of capital to pay off his father's debts and keep the enterprise going. In 1807, he moved to Plymouth to supervise shovel making at Plymouth Iron Works while continuing production in Easton. In Plymouth, he designed and patented a trip hammer that made the process of shovel making more efficient. When the Plymouth factory shut down in 1814, he returned to Easton with new industry contacts and a desire to innovate.

Oliver soon began improving on his father's shovel design. In 1817, he made the first back-strapped shovel, which increased the quality and durability of the tool. He also manufactured the first metal shovels with wood handles and developed what became

COURTESY OF STONEHILL COLLEGE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COLLECTIONS

known as the "Ames bend"—a bend in the shovel that made it easier to lift dirt off the ground and move it to a higher plane.

Along with his technological inventions, Oliver also streamlined the process for shovel making, assigning workers their own tasks in the process and dividing the labor to speed up production. As shovel orders increased, the company expanded its presence in Easton and nearby Braintree and banded with local manufacturers to increase the town's waterpower. With a need for more manpower, Oliver began recruiting workers from farther away in New England, establishing some of the first company houses.

Meanwhile, the rapid growth of the United States in the early 1800s fueled a slew of public works projects that required hand tools to move earth loosened by plows and picks. The first project to put Ames shovels on the map was the construction of the Erie Canal, which began in 1817. In 1828, Ames shovels broke ground for Baltimore's B&O Railroad.

As the business prospered and raw materials grew scarce, Oliver bought land and factories in Maine to produce hardwood stock for handles and invested in iron ore mining in New Jersey to provide iron for blades. He also invested in the burgeoning railroad industry.

"Much of the company's early involvement and investment in the railroads was to help expand its distribution," Wise said. "The Ames family was very entrepreneurial—they invested in a lot of things they knew would contribute to the business and make them more profitable."

Cashing in on the Gold Rush, War and Westward Expansion

In 1844, Oliver turned day-to-day operation of the business over to his sons, Oakes and Oliver Jr., making them partners in the company renamed Oliver Ames & Sons. By then, shopkeepers could not keep Ames shovels in stock—in parts of the South and Midwest they were so valuable they were used as currency.



OLIVER AMES JR.



OAKES AMES

In 1844, Oliver Ames turned over day-to-day operations of the business to his sons, Oliver Ames Jr. and Oakes, making them partners in the company renamed Oliver Ames & Sons.



Westward migration along the Oregon Trail elevated the brand nationally, with settlers using Ames shovels to battle the elements and build homesteads on the frontier. The California Gold Rush, beginning in 1848 after gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, made a fortune for the business, which supplied shovels and picks to miners. The Australian Gold Rush a few years later created the first global demand for Ames shovels.

After a fire in 1852 forced the company to rebuild, a larger factory with steam power was finished, becoming one of the nation's first assembly line facilities.

Within a decade, the company had quadrupled its value and was employing hundreds of workmen, many of them Irish immigrants who came to America to escape the Irish Potato Famine. Despite the newfound wealth of the Ames family, Oliver and his sons were close with their workers and actively involved in the Easton community.

"Oliver had a reputation as a fearsome old man who was someone to be reckoned with, but he was very much part of the community," Hands said. "His friends weren't the richest people in town—they were the guys who worked with him for years.

"He was stubborn about his way of doing things. If they knew Oliver was coming to the factory, they would ask workers to hide the new products and pull out the old ones until he had finished going through them."

When the Civil War began, President Abraham Lincoln reportedly asked Oakes, an ardent abolitionist, to supply shovels to the Union Army. Along with shovels, the company made swords, cannons and other items for the Army.

After the war, President Lincoln asked Oakes, by then a U.S. congressman, to head up construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. The ambitious project, which aimed to link a fractured nation by rail from east to west, was plagued by poor management and funding issues, but Lincoln was certain the shrewd businessman could make it happen.

Oakes obtained financing and land for the project and helped create the Crédit Mobilier of America, a company formed to manage construction of the Union Pacific Railroad, which connected the eastern U.S. rail network to the western

COURTESY OF STONEHILL COLLEGE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Central Pacific Railroad. Crews with both railways used Ames shovels, picks and other tools to forge the 1,900-mile route, which culminated with the driving of a golden spike uniting the two lines at Promontory Point, Utah, in 1869.

But for the Ames brothers, the achievement turned scandalous in 1872 when an investigation revealed that they, along with other Crédit Mobilier investors, reaped profits from inflated contract bids while workers went unpaid. Oakes was censured by Congress for his involvement, which included selling shares of Crédit Mobilier stock to congressmen.

The scandal had little effect on the reputation of the shovel company, which was more successful than ever. Its invention of a shovel-bending machine in 1870 made production faster and more consistent. By 1879, the company produced up to 60% of the world's shovels.

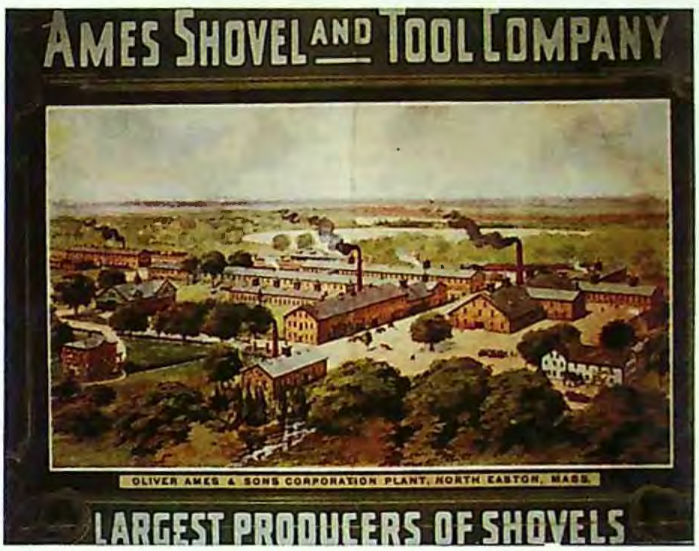
Building National Landmarks, Leaving a Legacy

With a third generation of Ames men at the helm, including future Massachusetts Governor Oliver Ames III, the company flourished through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, supplying shovels and other tools for many of the era's biggest construction projects. In 1886, workers used Ames shovels to install the Statue of Liberty on its pedestal in New York Harbor. In the early 1900s, Ames shovels were used to tunnel underground routes for Boston and New York subways and dig the Panama Canal.

The trench warfare of World War I dramatically increased the demand for Ames shovels, with soldiers digging numerous trenches through battlefield fronts to shield themselves from machine-gun fire. After the war, Ames shovels were used to build iconic landmarks including the Empire State Building, Hoover Dam, Mount Rushmore and the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Great Depression hit manufacturers hard, but the company endured by acquiring small toolmakers across the country and consolidating their products under the Ames brand. In 1931, under its fifth and last generation of family ownership, Ames merged with several major toolmakers in the Ohio Valley. Despite moving its headquarters to West Virginia, the company continued shovel production in Easton.

After Allied forces captured a German folding spade during the 1940 Battle of Dunkirk, U.S. military leaders sent it to Easton for Ames to make a copy, Hands said. The tool became the basis for the Army's folding shovel. During World War II, Ames supplied 11 million entrenching tools to U.S. soldiers, along with armor tank plating, bayonets and shell casings. Its production for the military continued through the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars.



An antique postcard for Ames Shovel and Tool Company

Competition from steam shovels and other powered tools during the postwar era reduced the need for commercial hand shovels. Ames shut down its Easton factory in 1956, relocating to Parkersburg, W.Va., and steering the business toward garden tool production. Its shovels would continue to be deployed for monumental projects such as the construction of Interstate 80 and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Ames Tools also created a special lopper-like tool for a satellite retrieval mission in 1984. In 1999, the company merged with True Temper, another historic toolmaker, founded in 1808 by Vermont blacksmith Alexander Miller.

Its legacy is still very much alive in Easton, where the Ames family built homes, churches and schools for its immigrant workforce of Irish, Swedish and Portuguese workers and donated land for public parks. The family established the town's first water system and the Ames Free Library to improve public health and education in the community. They set up trusts that continue to provide funds for town beautification and student scholarships.

"The Ames family made sure that when they succeeded, the community succeeded as well," Hands said. "They invested in the people who supported their business, and they supported Ames right back."

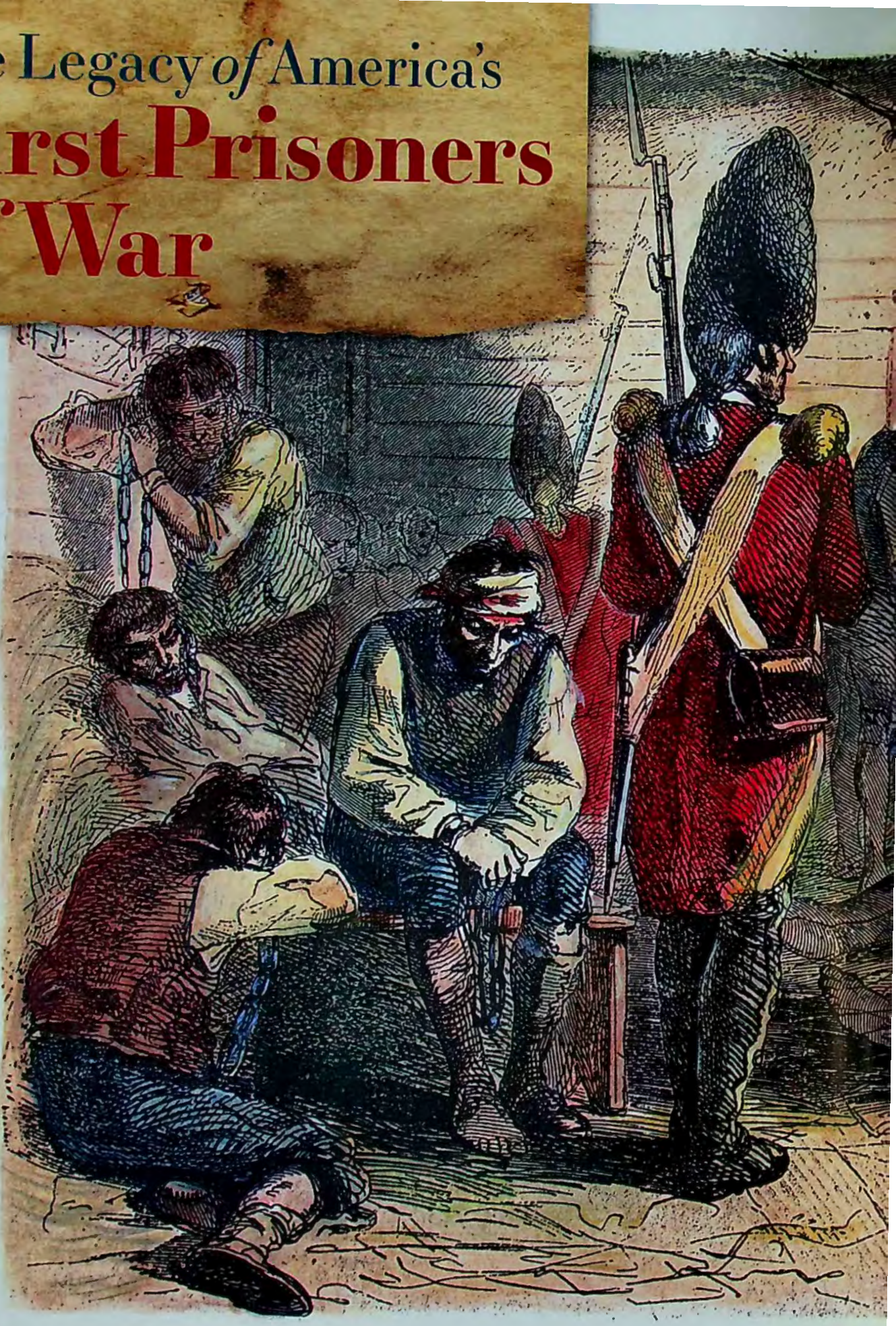
Grand Gilded Age mansions that once belonged to the family now serve as a town hall and the home of Stonehill College, a private Catholic college that houses Ames artifacts, including Capt. Ames' original ledger, hundreds of historic shovels made in Easton and silver shovels displayed at Philadelphia's Centennial Exposition in 1876. Much of the shovel works remain and have recently been restored into apartments that retain their industrial character and historic integrity.

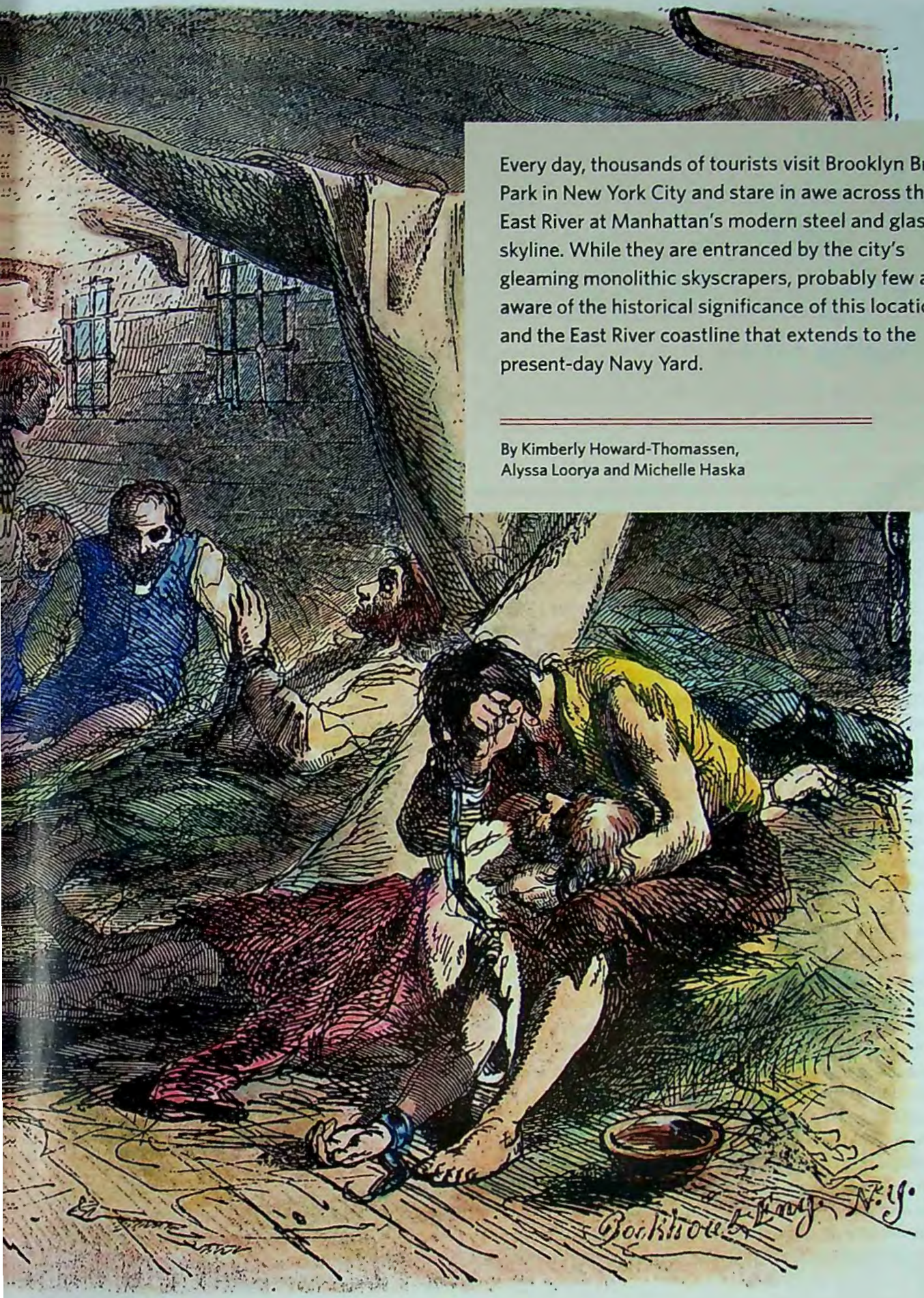
For its part, Ames, which is formally known as The AMES Companies, still makes products in the United States. The company is proud of its heritage and strives to make tools Capt. Ames and his sons would endorse.

"We have lots of historic brands in our portfolio, so we talk about what they mean and how they came about," Wise said. "Ames is a great name—and we take pride in it."

THE AMES COMPANIES, INC.

The Legacy *of* America's **First Prisoners *of* War**





Every day, thousands of tourists visit Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York City and stare in awe across the East River at Manhattan's modern steel and glass skyline. While they are entranced by the city's gleaming monolithic skyscrapers, probably few are aware of the historical significance of this location and the East River coastline that extends to the present-day Navy Yard.

By Kimberly Howard-Thomassen, Alyssa Loorya and Michelle Haska

THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NEW YORK



This view of Manhattan from Brooklyn Bridge Park shows where the British prison ships were anchored.

NEW YORK CITY: Britain's Detention Center

ON AUGUST 27, 1776, the largest engagement of the American Revolution began in Brooklyn, then its own city across the river from Manhattan Island. The Battle of Long Island, also known as the Battle of Brooklyn, drew militias from throughout the Colonies to join and fight alongside the Continental Army under General George Washington. The gruesome two-day battle resulted in a British victory led by Major General William Howe, with Gen. Washington and his troops retreating to Manhattan.

This defeat did two things. First, it served as a rallying cry for the Colonial militias to unite and fight as one army. Second, the defeat put Manhattan and Brooklyn under enemy control for the remainder of the war. New York City was no longer just occupied territory; it served as the headquarters of British operations in North America from 1776 until 1783. The city also served as the principal detention center for captured American insurgents, including civilians, soldiers and sailors, officers, and enlisted men from across the 13 Colonies.

These were America's first prisoners of war.

At first, the British detained captured American prisoners in various public and private buildings throughout Manhattan Island, including the municipal almshouse and jail, churches, the classrooms of King's College (now known as Columbia University), sugarhouses, and taverns. Conditions in these makeshift detainment centers were horrific. Prisoners were packed into overcrowded cells, with 20 men per cell in the city jail, according to an article from the New England Historical Society. An article in an 1872 issue of *The New York Times* suggested that 800 prisoners were held captive in the North Dutch Church on William Street—and perhaps just as many in the Middle Dutch Church.

As the War of Independence raged on and captured American Patriots continued to be sent to New York City, it became impossible to fit more prisoners in these buildings. The British saw an overflow of prisoners, and their solution was to turn broken-down, hollowed-out warships into floating prisons.

The British stripped the ships of sails, masts and other usable equipment to make room to cram in "traitors to the Crown." They anchored the hulks in Wallabout Bay, a shallow inlet on the Brooklyn side of the East River where the present-day Navy Yard is located.

Compared with the prison ships, the jails and churches were luxurious. In total, 16 prison ships were anchored along the East River. The most notorious Wallabout prison ship, the HMS *Jersey*, packed more than 1,100 prisoners into its rotting hull.

Life and Death on the Prison Ships

There was a high likelihood of death on an overcrowded prison ship as general conditions supplied numerous ways to expire. The water was contaminated and food was scarce, leading to dehydration and starvation. The prisoners and their clothing were infested with vermin such as ticks and lice. Slop buckets and necessary tubs overflowed with human waste.

Disease was rampant, with typhus, dysentery and smallpox being the most common. If a captive was lucky enough to avoid one of these illnesses, they



The HMS *Jersey* was the most notorious prison ship in Wallabout Bay.

GETTY IMAGES ; THE GRANGER COLLECTION, NEW YORK

The British used the prospect of imprisonment on the ships to instill fear in the Colonists.

eventually succumbed to scurvy, which was caused by a lack of fresh fruits and vegetables. As a result, their teeth fell out, and their gums and eyes bled incessantly.

Detainees who survived the prison ships spoke of decks slippery with excrement, freezing winters, unbearably hot summers, and bodies flung carelessly into Wallabout Bay or hastily interred by the dozens on nearby beaches.

Even a short time on a prison ship could have a lasting impact on one's psyche. Christopher Vail, a young sailor from Southold, Long Island, who spent two weeks on the *Jersey* in September 1781, stated in an account that the experience haunted him for the rest of his life.

The British used the prospect of imprisonment on the ships to instill fear in the Colonists. If you were a prisoner, there was a simple way to gain your release: Sign allegiance to King George III. Some Colonists did, but thousands of Patriots refused to take an oath to the king, bravely opting for torment and potential death to support the concept of an independent nation.

Americans who read newspaper articles about the horror and cruelty these prisoners of war faced were enraged, creating additional support for the Continental Army and the fight for independence.

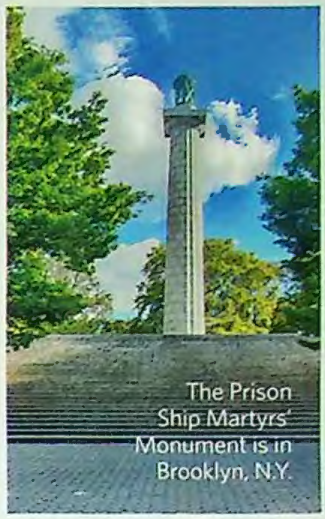
Despite the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, Americans remained imprisoned on the ships until the British evacuated New York City in 1783. It is believed that during their exit, they set fire to the HMS *Jersey*, executing its remaining prisoners.

Between 1776 and 1783, approximately 30,000 Americans were imprisoned at one point in New York City. In his book *Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American Prisoners in the Revolutionary War* (Basic Books, 2008), historian Edwin Burrows suggests there were nearly 18,000 fatalities—an estimated 11,000 of those taking place on prison ships. If his estimates are correct, then more Americans died on prison ships than in ground battles during the war.

Remembering the Imprisoned

In the years after the British evacuation, the remains of the prisoners hastily buried on the shoreline of Wallabout Bay began to appear as the sand eroded. Brooklynites would look out to the beaches and see the remains.

"For many years after the end of the war, the sandy beaches of Wallabout Bay remained littered with the bones of men who died in the prison ships—one resident of the area described skulls lying about as thick as pumpkins in an autumn cornfield—while the abandoned black hulk of the *Jersey* slowly broke up out in the mud flats beyond," Burrows writes.


The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument is in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Although Congress in 1793 referred to the remains scattered along the shores of Wallabout Bay as "martyrs," politics and development impeded any plans to properly reinter them until 1808 when the Tammany Society, a political organization in New York City, secured a burial ground and collected the remains. The dead were buried in a tomb on a private lot owned by Benjamin Romaine, a member of the Tammany Society, who had been a prisoner of war held in a local sugarhouse.

In 1873, the remains of the prison ship martyrs were moved to a newly created crypt in Fort Greene Park.

Toward the end of the 19th century, a diverse group of interested parties including the federal government, municipal and state governments, private societies, and donors began a campaign for a permanent monument to the prison ship martyrs. The Fort Greene DAR Chapter was formed in 1896 in Brooklyn to erect a "suitable memorial to the memory of martyrs—civilian, military and naval—who perished in prison ships anchored in the Wallabout Bay during the Revolutionary War." The chapter, along with the Society of Old Brooklynites, organized an association of several groups.

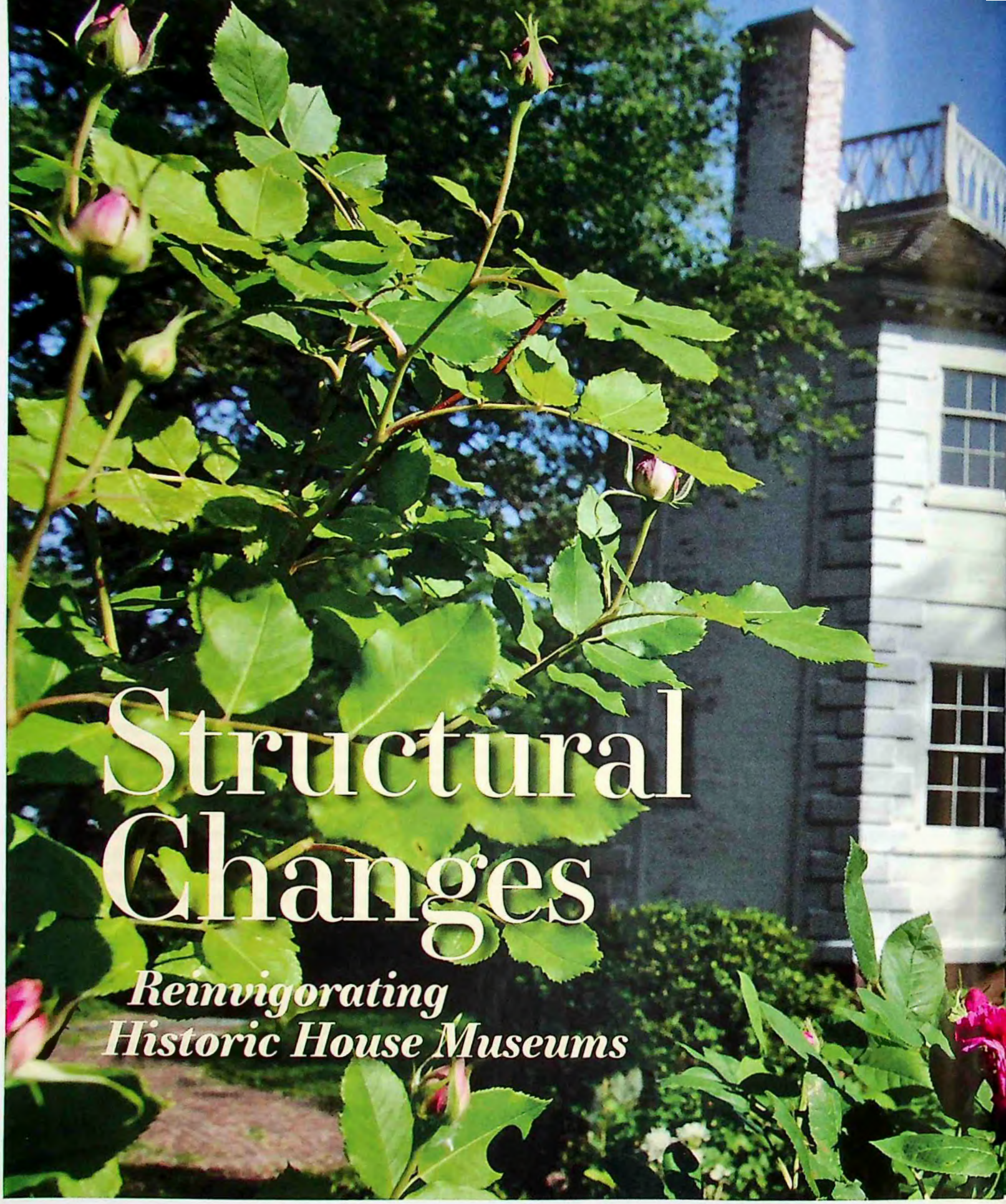
The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, designed by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, was dedicated in December 1908, and the remains were moved a third time into a new vault at the base of the monument.

President-elect William Howard Taft attended the ceremony. Also in attendance was Dr. Nellie M. Flint, the granddaughter of Captain David Morris, who at the age of 16 was taken prisoner and confined on the HMS *Jersey* in October 1780. On December 11 of that year, he and 40 other prisoners escaped over the frozen waters of Wallabout Bay.

When you visit the Brooklyn banks of the East River to revel in the view of the Manhattan skyline, look at the shoreline with a new perspective and imagine the grim sight of 16 dismasted and decaying hulks as you gaze north. Take a moment to reflect on where you are, standing in view of the place where men sacrificed their freedoms to make America the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Kimberly Howard-Thomassen, Alyssa Loorya and Michelle Haska are members of the Fort Greene DAR Chapter in Brooklyn, N.Y.

NEW YORK PARKS DEPARTMENT



Structural Changes

Reinvigorating Historic House Museums



Upper Manhattan's Morris-Jumel Mansion, built in 1765

TRISH MAYO, MORRIS JUMEL MANSION

/ By Courtney Peter /

Twenty years ago, a distress signal too insistent to be ignored began emanating from leading voices within the museum community, directed toward historic house museums. The plainspoken imperative: Evolve or risk becoming a thing of the past.

So far, the warning has proved to be more of a call to action than a death knell, generating debate and discussion about common challenges facing the field and igniting an industrywide brainstorming session devoted to finding a path forward. Historic house museums in communities across the country have identified ways not only to survive but also thrive by expanding the scope of their storytelling, engaging new audiences and creating collaborative environments.

Foundation Cracks

A seminal event in the United States' historic preservation movement occurred in the mid-19th century, when the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association formed to purchase and restore George Washington's Potomac River estate. Buoyed by the organization's success as well as by surges of preservationist activism surrounding the Colonial Revival, Progressive and Bicentennial eras, the national tally of historic house museums grew to surpass 15,000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) estimates.

By that count, there are about as many historic house museums in the United States as there are Starbucks. But unlike the ubiquitous coffee company, half of those historic house museums welcome fewer than 5,000 visitors per year. Many operate on an annual budget of $50,000 or less. "In 2002, the average house museum incurred a cost of $40 per visitor, but took in only $8 per visitor. That is the definition of unsustainable," said Stephanie Meeks, then NTHP president and CEO, in her opening speech to the National Preservation Conference in Indianapolis in October 2013.

Declining visitation and financial shortfalls are not the only issues the industry faces. For example, whereas consistency is a positive asset for a national coffee chain, it's a negative thing for historic house museums. "Despite the inherent strength in the diversity of house museums, we often merely copy one another, so from the visitor's perspective, they can seem to be all the same," editors Kenneth C. Turino and Max A. van Balgooy write in the introduction to *Reimagining Historic House Museums: New Approaches and* Proven *Solutions* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).









Clockwise from top left: The new Seed Saving Lab in Salem, Mass., is an example of the "Activate Main Street" initiative, which takes activities that previously happened behind the scenes and repositions them front and center. President and CEO Franklin Vagnone regularly takes to his "corner office" on Main Street. While sweeping the sidewalks, he chats with students, teachers and walk-in visitors. In the Pottery Lab, up to 15 visitors can engage in kinesthetic learning techniques, including molding clay and glazing while listening to interpreters. The "Access Salem" initiative created new ways for people with physical and cognitive disabilities to engage within the historic district.

Anyone who has toured historic house museums, whether by the handful or the hundreds, knows the typical tour format: A docent guides a group in a linear path, describing how the home's previous occupants used the rooms and the objects they contain. Visitors might be able to enter individual rooms, or they might be able to only peer in from a doorway. Under this model, visitors receive information while observing a space instead of engaging in conversation while interacting with it.

A guided tour conveys implicit limits, writes Dawn DiPrince, currently executive director at History Colorado, in *Reimagining Historic House Museums*. "The choice to use a guided house tour, arguably, expresses more to visitors than the content of the tour. It says that visitors cannot be trusted in the museum without supervision, that the visitor's experiences and knowledge are not important to the experience, and that visitors must be passive consumers of the expert content," she writes.

These and other factors, including static programming, staffing challenges and a lack of inclusivity in both interpretation and outreach, called historic house museums' continued existence into question. In 2002 and again in 2007, the American Alliance of Museums, the American Association for State and Local History, and the NTHP convened a summit at Kykuit, a Rockefeller estate in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., to explore the future of historic sites, including historic house museums. The first summit forecast a dim future, but the second struck a hopeful note as signs showed historic house museums were attempting to evolve.

Complete Renovation

It takes time to accept the idea that transformative change is needed, and longer still to produce and execute a plan to make it happen. The 15-plus years since the alarm bells of the early 2000s have given historic house museums time to process industry trends, examine operating practices and explore new possibilities. Examples of creative, inclusive, solution-oriented strategies for reinventing historic house museums abound across the industry—and, just like the sites themselves, no two are exactly the same.

In late 2016, recognizing the need for an overhaul but unsure of how to go about it, Old Salem Museum and Gardens, a living history site in Winston-Salem, N.C., which includes more than 100 interpreted acres as well as the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA), brought Franklin Vagnone on board as president and CEO. Internationally known for his expertise in innovative and entrepreneurial nonprofit management, Vagnone is president of Twisted Preservation Cultural Consulting and former executive director of both the Historic House Trust of New York City and the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks. He and Deborah Ryan co-wrote *Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (Taylor and Francis, 2016), a forthright plea to the historic preservation industry to challenge conventions, put visitors first and take risks.

Reactions ran the gamut from some people calling it a "groundbreaking manifesto" to critics referring to it as expensive toilet paper. Since publication, the book has gone through more than 12 printings. In Vagnone's view, the book's message was about collaboration, not provocation. "That book was saying: Come and join me, let's figure this out, let's do research, let's move these sites to a place of meaning to the community. Please, take this to places we haven't imagined," Vagnone said.

When Vagnone arrived at Old Salem Museum and Gardens, annual visitation had fallen 35% from a peak of 100,000, and its deficit had grown to nearly $6 million. Visitors had trouble differentiating the privately owned buildings in the historic district from those that were open to the public. Within public spaces, portions of town history were missing, as interpretation concentrated heavily on the Moravians who founded Salem.

Now, Old Salem is emerging from a metamorphosis. Guided by a 20-person leadership team that reflects organizational

FRANKLIN VAGNONE, OLD SALEM MUSEUM AND GARDENS

diversity, Old Salem introduced strategic initiatives that speak to its updated mission: to explore the stories of people in the American South—including Moravians and Black and indigenous peoples—while combating food insecurity. "There's not a part of Old Salem and MESDA that we haven't transformed, dismantled and put back together," Vagnone said. "Everything is tactile, everything is immersive, from the way the map is designed to the stools in the decorative arts museum."

Barriers were banished from historic spaces, which are now staged with reproductions and items visitors can touch. Craftsmen activities moved to multiple locations along Main Street, increasing visibility and allowing space for larger group tours and hands-on workshops. The Seeds With Stories program was created to highlight the historic plant collection, and the Moravian bakery began donating bread to a local food bank. The Hidden Town Project launched to reveal through research the history of enslaved and free people of African descent who lived in Salem.

Inclusive Design

Incorporating previously neglected voices in the interpretation of historic sites not only presents a more complete view of history, but also increases the potential for connection with modern audiences, who appreciate seeing themselves reflected in stories about the past and value cultural institutions' willingness to engage with complicated subject matter.

In 2005, after a reassessment of its organizational mission, Royall House and Slave Quarters in Medford, Mass., changed its name and widened its interpretive lens. Previously, the site focused on the story of its wealthy owners, while saying little about the source of their wealth or the people who supported their lifestyle. After the shift, the site presented two entangled narratives: that of the largest slaveholding family in Massachusetts and that of the enslaved Africans who lived in the only known surviving separate slave quarters in the northern United States.

Upper Manhattan's Morris-Jumel Mansion, built in 1765 as a summer house for British Colonel Roger Morris and later used by George Washington as a temporary headquarters during the American Revolution, is infusing interpretive areas with the stories of Black individuals spanning three centuries. A former boxroom turned storage closet where Washington's traveling valet William Lee likely attended to the future president will be interpreted and opened to the public. A window facing the former residence of Paul Robeson, a luminary of the Harlem Renaissance, will reflect on his family's multigenerational journey from enslavement to cultural prominence—all within the same neighborhood.

Anne Northup, who spent two summers cooking at Morris-Jumel Mansion and whose husband, Solomon Northup, wrote the memoir *12 Years a Slave*, will also enter the interpretive picture. "We're going to tell that story in the dining room where her food would've been eaten and celebrated, while the kitchen will focus on sharing about labor, domestic life and social interactions of the building's enslaved population and workers over time," Executive Director Shiloh Holley said.

The Read House & Gardens in New Castle, Del., also put its windows to work reframing historical context. During the 2021 iteration of Lit for the Holidays, an annual bash hosted in homage to the fabulous parties thrown by the Prohibition-era owners, artists were invited to create window installations that would be visible from outside. A local gallerist worked with emerging artists of color to adorn the Palladian window and fan light that dominate the grand entrance with African-derived configurations of concentric diamonds. (Learn more about the Read House in the May/June 2020 issue of *American Spirit*.)

"It became a way to honor the ancestors who worked at the Read House and were not welcome to use the front entrance," Director Brenton Grom said. "They superimposed something that's in dialogue with the existing neoclassical architecture in order to create that meaning."

Whether produced by staff alone or with input from outside collaborators, nuanced, authentic storytelling and programming can spur critical thinking and engagement. Read House & Gardens demonstrates that intention to visitors through revamped tour programming that adds context to the 19th-century period rooms. Such context comes from 1980s curatorial ideas, as well as the later owners who helped New Castle become a Colonial Revival-era hub for preservation tourism.

"We're finding that people are ready and eager to take the complexity of that experience with them," Grom said. "We care that they go out into the world and can apply ways of critical thinking to what's around them."



Royall House and Slave Quarters Medford, Mass.

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the Bare Necessities

Colonial routines were not always revolutionary

/ By Bill Hudgins /

Daily life for our Colonial ancestors was far different from the lives we lead today, but were their lives really simpler? From getting ready first thing in the morning to "dressing for success" to dealing with one's possessions, mundane tasks took tremendous thought and effort. Here are some key practices that 17th- and 18th-century people undertook to prepare for their day.

Cleanliness Was Next to Impossible

Even well-to-do Colonists rarely took more than a quick, cold-water sponge bath in the morning, according to an article written by Edwards Park for the autumn 2000 issue of the *Colonial Williamsburg Journal*. Hot baths took too much work, and many considered all-over bathing to be a health hazard. Some people, however, took dips in ponds or streams. William Byrd II, a planter who founded Richmond, Va., swam in the James River even in cold weather, believing it helped prevent illness.

In an era before deodorant soap and antiperspirants existed, what did people do about body odor? The wealthy changed clothes frequently and carried scented handkerchiefs or nosegays to mask particularly strong odors. Less well-off individuals did not have this option available to them. Women slept in loose, shapeless shifts while men slept in their shirts. Both sexes often wore these same garments during the day, day after day.

To fight household odors, Colonists used herbs, flowers and pomanders. Pomanders, whose name was derived from the French term *pomme d'amber*, meaning "apple of amber," were pieces of fruit such as oranges studded with cloves and often covered with spices and fragrant oils. Colonists hung pomanders throughout their homes, and even today they remain popular around the holidays for adding a festive scent to rooms and are largely decorative in nature.



To fight household odors, Colonists used herbs, flowers and pomanders.

Putting Their Best Hands Forward

Colonial society did place a premium on clean hands and nails. Most people used a small knife or scissors to pare and clean their nails. To soften and lighten skin, upper- and middle-class women soaked their hands in concoctions described in books such as Amelia Chambers' 1775 *The Ladies Best Companion*. There were also recipes for potions to lighten or remove freckles, warts, corns and other blemishes.

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Brushing Up on Dental Hygiene

Dental hygiene was a challenge in an era when tooth decay and other mouth-related maladies were widespread and dentistry was in its infancy, according to a 2013 article by historian Harry Schenawolf in the online *Revolutionary War Journal*. Poor diets rich in fortified wines, sugary alcohol and confections weakened teeth and gums, as did a variety of ailments such as scurvy, malaria and syphilis. The Colonies imported toothbrushes made of ivory or wood with hog or horsehair bristles from England.

Those who could not afford brushes would scrub their teeth with a rough damp rag dipped in salt, soot or powdered charcoal; tooth powders made from crushed eggshells or seashells; talc; or other abrasives. These scrubs were often mixed with fragrant oils such as camphor, spices or herbs to sweeten the breath, according to a 2019 article on **theconversation.com**.

Chew sticks were also popular. These sticks were simply twigs with frayed ends that people chewed on to generally help clean and remove food particles that coated their teeth. Dating back millennia, chew sticks are still available as "natural" tools for cleaning teeth.

False teeth were available, made with real human teeth or other hard substances. George Washington once sent a set of his own false teeth that had darkened back to its maker for cleaning. The dentist, Isaac Greenwood of Boston, chided Washington for staining them by drinking too much port wine and suggested that Washington exchange one pair of false teeth for another between supper and the traditional post-prandial port party.

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Among the non-laboring classes, exercise was considered essential for promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing obesity and "apoplectic fits"—or what today would be called strokes—and avoiding poor sleep and other ailments. Exercise was defined as anything requiring labor and strength and causing the breathing and heart rate to accelerate, according to a 2021 article by Sharon Cotner for Colonial Williamsburg.

Recommended exercises ranged from horseback riding and walking to dancing, swimming, gardening and physical labor such as chopping wood. Colonists played games such as the precursors to today's handball or tennis. They also wrestled for entertainment. (See the September/October 2019 issue of *American Spirit* for more about sports in early America.) Exercise encouraged people to go outdoors, which was believed to have salutary effects of its own.

Clothes Made the Colonist

Colonists were intensely status conscious, and clothing was the essential, ubiquitous status symbol. The style of clothing and the richness of the fabric from which it was made indicated social class, wealth and even livelihood. In 1727, printer Benjamin Franklin and a group of other tradesmen and artisans formed The Leather Apron Club, better known as "The Junto, for mutual self-improvement." As a Colonial Williamsburg tailor put it, "No man is ignorant that a taylor makes our cloaths; to some he not only makes their dress, but in some measure, may be said to make themselves."

Tailors were the most numerous tradespeople in a city like Williamsburg or Philadelphia. They were also among the first



ALAMY STOCK

As friction increased between England and the Colonies, Patriots began making "homespun" fabrics from wool, linen, cotton and hemp.

tradesmen in frontier settlements, according to Colonial Williamsburg, because everyone required clothing. Tailors made clothing for men and women of all social classes of this period, including enslaved people. Fashionable Colonial garments fit snugly, so tailors carefully measured customers for each item while considering the garment type and the characteristics of different fabrics.

Dressmakers, also known as "mantua-makers," used similar techniques to make gowns and dresses for women. These clothes did not have to fit as snugly as tailored garments, but a dressmaker had to know how to drape fabric for the most flattering look. Pockets were rare in dresses. Instead, women tied a pouch-like cloth "pocket" around their waists to carry necessities.

Sewing tradespeople and their customers became well acquainted with the latest English fashions by reading letters and men's and women's magazines that reported on styles and occasionally carried illustrations.

There were off-the-rack garments that did not need to fit closely—primarily women's shifts, men's shirts, hosiery, aprons, caps and gloves. Ready-made children's garments were meant to fit loosely and could be adjusted with ties as the child grew. Prêt-à-porter or ready-to-wear garments were generally mass-produced in England and imported to the Colonies.

According to Mark Hutter, a master tailor at Colonial Williamsburg, the nostalgic image of women making clothes by candle or firelight is improbable. Detailed sewing required ample light, and sewing patterns as we know them today did not exist yet. It took years of training to be able to measure, cut and fit clothing. Colonial women did mend clothing and sewed household linens when they had time during the day, Hutter said, but most people bought what clothes they could afford and maintained them as best they could. As friction increased between England and the Colonies, Patriots began making "homespun" fabrics from wool, linen, cotton and hemp. Wearing homespun garments advertised one's political leanings.

Tools and Status Symbols

Colonists also announced their station in life through personal items such as jewelry, hair and wig styles, and accessories such as watches and snuff boxes. In the 17th century, men often carried fancy swords or sword canes. These possessions gave way to walking sticks and fancy canes in the 18th century. Houses, carriages, furnishings, art, the existence of a personal library, and even the uniforms on household servants or slaves declared one's status.

During the 18th century, tea emerged as the Colonial beverage of choice, but sweetening one's drink took extra effort because sugar was sold in hefty loaves or cones. Hostesses used implements called sugar nippers to snip off small pieces that could be dropped directly into the cup as declared by asking one's guest, "One lump or two?" Sugar might alternatively be ground into a powder. Sugar nippers ranged from plain everyday devices to fancily engraved tools that were part of elaborate tea services.



A stamp might carry an individual's portrait or a family coat of arms, their names or initials.

Colonists also made an impression with wax seals that literally sealed letters from prying eyes and authenticated important documents. Technically, a "seal" referred to the wax being used as a closure, but the word also defined the physical engraved stamp that made the impression. Usually made of durable metal such as brass, a stamp might carry an individual's portrait or a family coat of arms, their name or initials. Signet rings were also used as stamping seals. The design was reversed on the stamp to produce the correct image on the wax.



This French-made etui contains scissors, a thimble, punch, bodkin and needle case.

Colonial Carry Bags

Just as we do today, Colonists had to carry personal effects. Where we might use a backpack or purse, they often used etuis to carry items that they needed with them during the day or while traveling. Colonial Williamsburg's collection of etuis includes a cleverly designed silver etui smaller than a woman's hand. It held a handle onto which the owner could screw a two-tined fork or butter knife blade. It also held tiny scissors, a pen knife, ear wax picks, a thimble, needle and thread, a pencil, and a nutmeg grater to flavor beverages. Other items found in etuis included ivory tablets for note taking, watches, keys and wax seals. Men tucked their etuis into coat pockets, while women often wore them on a chain called a "chatelaine."

JEFF GRIFFITH, THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION; GIFT OF DEVORAH BISHOP



GETTY IMAGES

DESIGNER OF THE STARS AND STRIPES

The Forgotten Legacy of Francis Hopkinson

/ By Sarah Jenkins Smith /



A self-portrait of Francis Hopkinson

THE REDWOOD COLLECTION, GIFT OF MRS. FRANCIS TAZEWELL REDWOOD

Francis Hopkinson played significant roles in designing two of America's most powerful symbols: the American Flag and the Great Seal of the United States.

Hopkinson was born on September 21, 1737, in Philadelphia, Pa., to Thomas Hopkinson, a judge born in London, and Mary Johnson Hopkinson, a native of Philadelphia. Francis' birthday was changed in 1752 when Great Britain converted from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Now, it falls on October 2.

Thomas Hopkinson was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin's. The two men experimented with electricity and founded the American Philosophical Society and the Academy of Philadelphia, which is now the University of Pennsylvania. The younger Hopkinson regarded Franklin as a mentor and role model, especially after losing his father in his teen years. Mary Hopkinson instilled moral character and a deeply rooted faith in her son, who became the first graduate of the Academy of Philadelphia in 1757 at the age of 20.

A Public Servant

Although Hopkinson had a promising career serving the Crown, his mentor, Franklin, convinced him to join the Patriot cause in the mid-1770s. As a result, Hopkinson was elected to the Second Continental Congress as a delegate from New Jersey in June 1776. He voted for independence from Great Britain and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Upon becoming a delegate to Congress, Hopkinson served on the Continental Marine Committee until November 1776, when he left Congress to head the Continental Navy, which he did until mid-August 1778. Hopkinson left the Navy when he was named Treasurer of Loans for the United States in 1778, and judge of the Admiralty Court of Pennsylvania in 1779. He held both posts simultaneously.

Later, he helped to ratify the U.S. Constitution in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and was appointed by President Washington to be the first federal judge of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1789.

A Multitalented Artist

Hopkinson's artistic contributions were multifaceted. He was a musician, composer, author, poet, writer, artist and inventor. At the age of 17, he learned to play the harpsichord and later invented a better method of quilling the instrument to give it more volume. He was the first American-born composer of secular music, writing the song "My Days Have Been So Wondrous Free" in 1759.

He used his musical talents to equip a glass harmonica with a keyboard in 1786 and invent an instrument he called the "Bellarmonic," which used metal bells to create its tones. In the early 1770s, he was a choir director at Christ Church in Philadelphia, where he composed hymns for the church. He studied art under famous British-American artist Benjamin West, and John Adams described him as a talented painter. (Read more about West in the November/December 2020 issue of *American Spirit*.)

In May 1766, Hopkinson left for England to visit the Bishop of Worcester, his mother's cousin. While there, he visited the Hopkinson family graves of his great-uncle Matthew Hopkinson in Paddington, England. Francis copied the inscriptions on the tomb and the family coat of arms, which led him to study heraldry. Heraldry is defined as the creation and granting of coats of arms and other insignia, a skill that would have a profound impact on Hopkinson's life.

Designing the Stars and Stripes

In 1776, Hopkinson was chosen to design the Great Seal of New Jersey. Four years later, while serving as the U.S. Treasurer of Loans, Hopkinson became the consultant to the second Committee on the Great Seal of the United States. Creating an official national flag was not a congressional priority in the spring of 1776, but designing a seal was necessary for the United States to denote its sovereignty. On July 4, 1776, Congress created the first of three U.S. Great Seal Committees.

Congress never created a U.S. Flag Committee because an unofficial national flag already existed. The Continental Colors Flag, also known as the Grand Union Flag, served as the unofficial naval ensign and national flag from December 3, 1775, to June 14, 1777. It had a field of seven red stripes and six white stripes with the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner. This was the unofficial national flag on July 4, 1776. It was not until 11 months later, on June 14, 1777, that the Continental Marine Committee entertained the U.S. Flag Resolution before Congress.

While Hopkinson was serving as a consultant to the second U.S. Great Seal Committee in the spring of 1780, the Continental Admiralty Board accepted a seal that he had designed, whereupon Hopkinson wrote the board a letter seeking compensation for flag and seal designs, among other services. His requested payment: a quarter cask, or about 28 gallons, of "the public wine."

After this request, Hopkinson billed Congress three times in June 1780 for 2,700 pounds. Instead of listing the Flag of the United States of America at the top, he listed the naval flag of the United States. Hopkinson's naval flag, with more red stripes for visibility, became the preferred national flag, according to Earl P. Williams Jr., author of "Did Francis Hopkinson Design Two Flags?" published in *NAVA News*, the newsletter of the North American Vexillological Association, Oct.-Dec. 2012, No. 216. The papers explaining Hopkinson's role in designing the American Flag and other important devices for the U.S. government were lost until 1917, when Harvard doctoral student George E. Hastings found them in the Library of Congress. Hastings turned his dissertation into the definitive biography on Hopkinson, *The Life and Works of Francis Hopkinson* (University of Chicago Press, 1926). Only a few copies were printed, which is why Hopkinson's role in the creation of the U.S. Flag remains widely unknown.



Like Father, Like Son

Francis Hopkinson married Colonel Joseph Borden's daughter, Ann Borden, in Bordentown, N.J., on September 1, 1768. They had five children. Their son, Joseph, followed in his father's footsteps. Joseph became a lawyer, U.S. representative and a song composer. Joseph Hopkinson wrote the lyrics to "Hail, Columbia" in 1798, setting them to his new arrangement of music written years earlier by Philip Phile. The song served as America's unofficial national anthem until 1931 when "The Star-Spangled Banner" replaced it. Now, "Hail, Columbia" pays tribute to the vice president.

Sarah Jenkins Smith is a member of the William Winchester DAR Chapter in Westminster, Md., and she is an associate member of the Francis Hopkinson DAR Chapter in Freehold, N.J. She is a fifth-great-granddaughter of Hopkinson's.

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THE DAR INSIGNIA STORE



56 Signers Monument, just blocks away from DAR Headquarters, is home to Signers Island and the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial. This memorial honors the courage and vision of the American heroes who risked their lives to declare independence from England, and now you can celebrate their act of bravery with our new 56 Signers Memorial pin!

56 Signers Memorial Pin

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How is Patriot defined?

DAR recognizes as Patriots not only soldiers, but also anyone who contributed to the cause of American freedom. To find out if your ancestor is recognized by the DAR as a Revolutionary Patriot, use the request form available online. Visit **www.dar.org** and click on "Membership."

How many members does the National Society have?

DAR has nearly 190,000 members in nearly 3,000 chapters worldwide, including chapters in 14 foreign countries and one territory. Since its founding in 1890, DAR has admitted more than 1 million members.

How can I find out more?

Go to **www.dar.org** and click on "Membership." There you'll find helpful instructions, advice on finding your lineage and a Prospective Member Information Request Form. Or call (202) 879–3224 for more information on joining this vital, service-minded organization.